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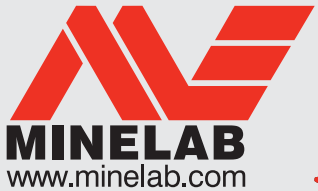


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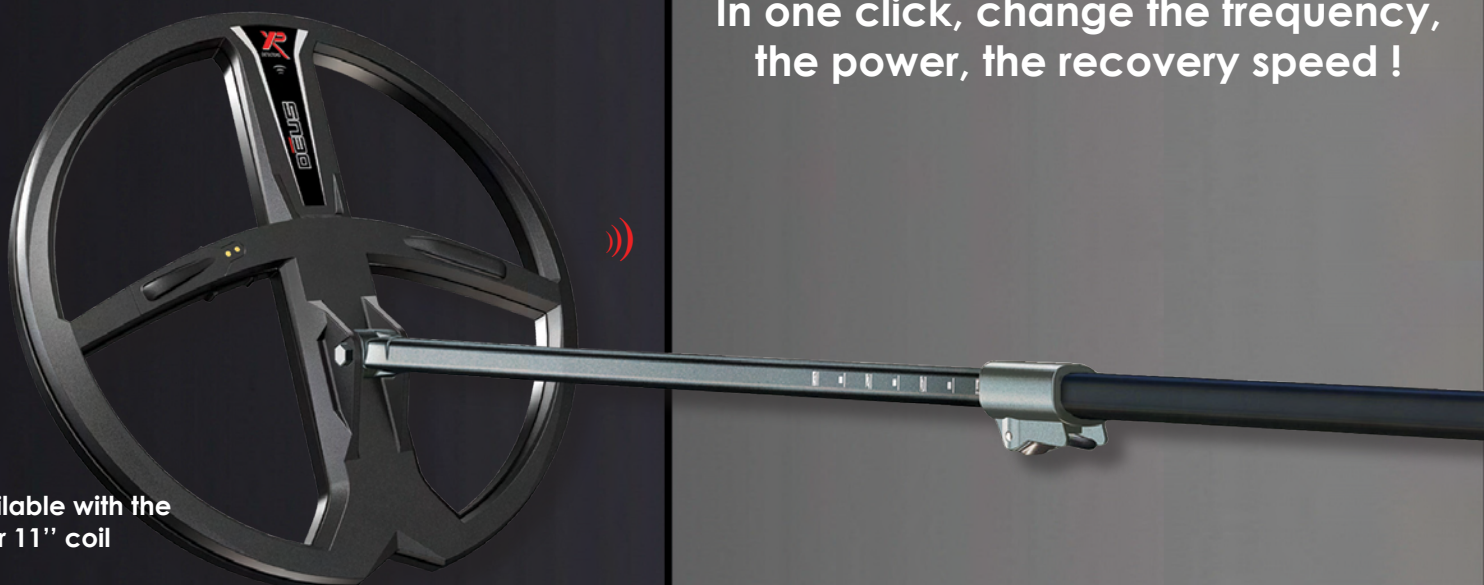


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| - From 2 to 5 tones | - Choice of coil |
| - Pitch, Full Tones | - Battery condition displayed |



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both edges



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Version 3
£549.00



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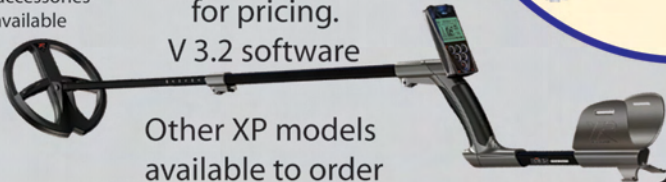
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V 3.2 software

Other XP models available to order



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11" DD coil & Stem to fit all 3 Jupiter models
£125.00
(No scuff cover available)

On the Cover

Front Cover Photo: *Le Catallon II*, copyright Neil Mahrer



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Volume 30 No 9 | May 2015

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Co-finder of the Jersey Hoard (Le Catallon II), Richard Miles brings us up-to-date with its contents as it's slowly being excavated.

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Harry Bain
Editor/Publisher



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Hello...

Hello and welcome to your May edition of *The Searcher*...

It seems that every month there are reports in our pages from clubs that have raised money for charity. I wish there was an official counter calculating the total that's been raised over the years. My guess is that it must be in its hundreds of thousands! It's fantastic to hear and in true form the Down to Earth Club have raised an impressive £1,000 for their chosen charity (see below).

To acknowledge clubs further, this month we have the annual Club Find of the Year results, which celebrates all those finds published in the Club Activities section of the magazine throughout 2014 – results on page 31. Many congratulations to the winners who will get a free subscription for a year to *The Searcher*.

On the cover we feature 'Derek' or as most people know it; the Jersey Hoard. It's slowly revealing its full identity whilst being painstakingly excavated and conserved. Richard Miles, co-finder, gives us an update



and shares what's coming to light after thousands of years being underground.

Another highlight is the most significant find of the Chetwode quadrant. Dr. John Davis of the British Sundial Society reports on this highly noteworthy instrument.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Search Ed' assesses the Garrett ATX and Adam Staples tests the new Garrett Pro-Pointer AT. Garrett, generously have given us one to give away as a prize too!

If you want the news as it happens please don't forget you can follow the magazine on our twitter feed at: [@TheSearcherMag](https://twitter.com/TheSearcherMag) in the meantime, happy searching and I hope you enjoy this edition.

Harry Bain
Editor

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Another cheque for charity

We have been out and about all year steadily raising money for charity. The formula is very simple; each time a member attends a dig, they willingly donate a £1 towards charity. Even dug up ones! Our chosen charity as always is the Great North Air Ambulance. A very worthy charity given some of the remote locations we sometimes detect in.

This year, the club raised an impressive sum of £1,000. The photo here shows the club Chairman, Lee Todd presenting the cheque.

Paul Linford



HUGE gold nugget unearthed

Australian gold prospector Michael Brown has uncovered an astonishing 87-ounce solid gold nugget during a prospecting expedition in Inglewood, a town located in the state of Victoria, Australia.

Discovered in 6" deep with a Minelab Michael said: "I'm still in absolute shock about finding a gold nugget of this magnitude! As a professional gold prospector, this find is a monumental accomplishment in my career."



Next issue
on sale
1 May



Treasure Chest Exhibition

Exhibition of Metal Detecting Discoveries

Metal detecting enthusiasts from across the Northwest region will descend on Chester Town Hall in August for the Treasure Chest Exhibition 2015 – an Exhibition of Metal Detecting Discoveries.

Members of detecting clubs will be setting up stalls to show off some of their most precious and interesting finds at the one-day event on Saturday, August 1, from 10am-4pm.

Visitors can bring along any unidentified or interesting finds themselves, as the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers will also be on hand to give advice and to identify and record finds.

The clubs will have lots of coins and artefacts on display, but each club will also have a special case, dedicated to this year's theme – 'Locks & Keys through the Ages'. This themed showcase will be entered into a competition, to be judged by popular TV historian and author Mark Olly, Elizabeth Royles, Keeper of Early History from Grovenor Museum Chester, and Steve Critchley Vice Chairman of the NCMD.

There will be plenty of exciting finds for visitors to examine, and for younger visitors, there will be 'touch' trays full of interesting artefacts and coins.

Co-organiser Dave Edwards said: "It should be a great day out. We've had tremendous support from clubs from throughout the region and it's a great venue, full of history in its own right"

Chester Town Hall is in the centre of the town, which is well served by public transport and has ample parking provision. For further details about the venue and how to get there, visit www.chestertownhall.co.uk

Venue: Chester Town Hall
Date: Saturday 1 August 2015
Time: 10am - 4pm
Admission: Free

2015/2016 QuickTides

QuickTide has established itself as the fast way to determine tide times at multiple coastal sites and is ideal for those with detectors who want an expanse of beach rather than sea!

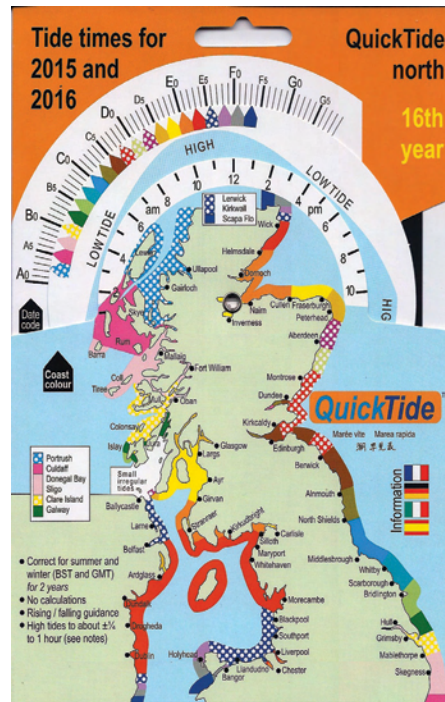
When you are by the sea you want to be sure of the tide a QuickTide tells you the tide times fast. On the card's disk, you just align a colour and a code to display the approximate high- and low-tide times for a particular day in 2015 or 2016 and the colour matches the coast colour on the QuickTide map.

QuickTide cards are colourful, cover a wide area, predict two years, and need no calculations (with traditional tide tables you add an hour for BST, subtract say two hours 47 minutes for the coastal displacement, and convert from the 24-hour clock).

For those who visit multiple parts of the coast, QuickTide's coverage of thousands of miles of coast is invaluable.

QuickTide is available across the country from over 120 stockists.

Direct orders: www.quicktide.co.uk or 0117 973 6688 (£7.99 each)



Lost Rings

A young lady called Hanna, who lost her engagement and matching wedding ring around the stables where she keeps her horse, contacted the Malvern History Society who put out a distress call.

Local detectorist Dave Harrison eventually contacted the young lady and arranged to meet her. After being shown the approximate area, he spent an hour looking for the rings.

First, he found the engagement ring, followed closely by the other. When Hannah was reunited with her lost treasures, she burst into tears. Well done Dave. Hannah's face tells it all.

Russell Peach



Why the Wolf kept coming to our door, says Celtic Liz



Norfolk Wolf gold stater of the Iceni, c.50-40 BC, ABC 1396, found by Gary Eldridge, N Norfolk, 23.9.2000, featured on front cover of *Advanced Detecting*.



Man-wolf head on Iceni silver unit, c.50-20 BC, ABC 1504, found by Norfolk Wolf, NW Norfolk, Oct. 1992.

Year after year, until he died, Norfolk Wolf, author of *Advanced Detecting* (Greenlight 2005), kept bringing us his Celtic coin finds. "I know you'll give me a fair price" he used to say. And we did. We know that if we want to keep getting the best Celtic coins we've got to keep paying the best prices. For a fast confidential service, free valuation and a free catalogue phone Liz **07990 840 816**. Elizabeth Cottam, Chris Rudd, PO Box 222, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6TY.



liz@celticcoins.com

01263 735 007

Chris Rudd



searcherretrospect

twenty years on John Winter looks back

Catalogue error

Old Yellowbelly's Roundabout was always a delightful read, and still is 20 years later. In one story he tells us that he had in his possession a lovely copy of a BM publication of 1951 entitled *Antiquities of Roman Britain*. He described a spindle whorl he'd seen on one page, 'lead with dot and line ornament', and accompanied by an illustration.

He told readers that, 'this was **not**, repeat, not a spindle whorl of the Roman period. His 'good friend' Kevin of Scunthorpe Museum Leahy (now a National Finds Advisor) had asked if he could publicise the error. Why? So he could have peace when a detectorist brought one to him insisting that it was Roman,' cause it's in the catalogue!

Necessity's child

This next 'Yellowbelly' tale is well known to

many of us, but is worth a reprise and I tell it almost verbatim.

"On 2 July 1881, a deranged man shot the President of the United States of America, James Garfield, and he was rushed into hospital.

Garfield was in a critical condition as surgeons struggled to treat him, unaware even where the bullets were lodged in his body.

At this time of national crisis many great men were contacted and brought to the dying President's bedside in the hope that someone would be able to help the doctors. Among the great minds present was Alexander Graham Bell who set to and designed and made a makeshift metal detector that he called an *Induction Balance*, employing his recently invented telephone as an audio agent.



Alas, he failed to find the two large bullets for signals abounded all over the President's prone body ... they couldn't be pinpointed. Much later it was found that what Bell's invention was locating was principally the bed springs."

Yellowbelly had taken that story from a 'quite interesting' book entitled *Made in America*. He concluded by saying that he was certain if he'd put that in the April issue of *The Searcher*, it would have been treated as an April Fool's joke. He concluded, 'But one thing is clear ... we actually had a working metal detector as far back as 1881!

Want to become an NCMD club?

NEW CLUB memberships are available.

For Club Membership you must provide: Your club Constitution and a list of Committee members.

A database master will be sent for individual names and addresses of all persons who are members of the club (for insurance purposes and mailing newsletters only).

Join the NCMD and support this voluntary organisation run by detectorists for detectorists

For more information see their advert on page 77 or go online at www.ncmd.co.uk

Please call John Rigby on 01253 692313 or email him at jjrigby@sky.com for prices and further information



MSR
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NEW Official Minelab Service Centre!

Steve Cox of MSR, has 14 years experience repairing Minelab machines but now has officially been appointed as the Minelab Approved Service Centre for the UK!

Steve will be looking after all Minelab machines in warranty with faults, those that are out of their warranty period and most of the unsupported machines too.

If you have any of the following machines that have developed a fault or simply need a service, MSR offer a prompt repair and service of the following machines. Musketeer & Musketeer Advantage, Sovereign XS & Elite, Explorer S, XS & SE range, E-Trac, Quattro, Safari, X-Terra Range. Please see the advert on page 81.



The British Museum has announced a new Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) initiative that will greatly increase volunteer involvement in archaeological heritage across the UK. PAsT Explorers is a five-year project that will create a national network of up to 500 trained volunteers who will participate in archaeological finds work in their local areas, sharing information through the PAS database and within their local communities. The project is generously supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) with a grant of £792,000 over five years.**

The project will contribute directly to the construction of new narratives about the history of local communities across England and Wales. It will build on the existing aims of the PAS to increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology, especially for people who have never before participated in archaeological heritage.

Volunteers will assist in the delivery of public activities in their local areas, including finds recording events, talks, displays and exhibitions and finds handling sessions. The project will raise awareness of the educational value of archaeological finds in their context, and promote the care and protection of the historic environment on a local level.

Volunteers will operate as Community Finds Recording Teams (CFRTs) based around their local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). The teams will be organised into ten regional training centres across the country. They will receive training in order to identify and record archaeological finds from their local area, increasing the number of objects recorded onto the PAS database where the records will be accessible to all, free of charge.

Volunteers will also develop a new County

Pages section of the PAS website: central resources of information on volunteering and finds activity in each region.

The grant will also support new dedicated posts in the PAS Central Unit based at the British Museum: two Project Officers; an Outreach Officer and an ICT Officer.

Over 24,000 people have provided data for the PAS database and the public have been able to record their own finds since 2010.

Roger Bland, Head of the PAS said "Volunteers have always been vital for the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and this generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will mean that we can not only provide many more volunteering opportunities, but also give them the chance to develop their skills. This will enable us to meet our core aim of increasing our knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales for the benefit of all."

readers

The opinions and thoughts shared here by our readers are not necessarily shared by The Searcher.

letters

Email: info@thesearcher.co.uk with your letters. Only genuine names and addresses accepted for publication.

Dear Editor

What is it?

Several years ago I was searching in Lincolnshire where I had previously dug up early medieval coins and relics. As I am legally blind, I could not make out a fairly large and curious find. I knew it was special as it just had that feel about it. That afternoon I got the chance to wash it off and expose it to good light and magnification. WOW, was I excited!



What I saw was an elongated triangular piece with chip carved designs and residuals of three different colors of enamel, primarily blue as well as yellow on the borders and deep red in the spirals. It was broken on two sides where other panels were attached, the bottom was intact and the narrow top seems to almost be at its end with maybe a stylised bird's head. It measures 7cm long, 28mm wide at its base, 12mm wide at the top

and 1.5mm thick. I imagine perhaps a triangular pyramid configuration?

Even though I have found what I think is very similar, I will not mention it here as I wish to get the reader's input. Happy Hunting.

The Blind Searcher. USA

Dear Editor

Local group?

I have had an interest in history and archaeology since school and it is more year's than I care to remember since leaving school and I also have an interest in metal detecting.

The site I used to use is now being developed into a new housing estate and I would like to join a local group but am having difficulty finding one in the Blackburn and Darwen area. I wondered if any of your reader's knew of any or if anyone could give me information on how to set up a metal detecting club.

I own a C-Scope NEWFORCE R1 and am dying to get detecting. I would be grateful for any help you or your reader's can give me.

Michael Seymour

Dear Editor

Timeline

Just picked up *The Searcher* and pleased to find it full of first class articles. The only thing I disagree with is the use by your writer Mike Sinclair of a new abbreviation of the accepted timeline. Bc. Ad. In the case of this island it is not accurate as the Christian Era did not start at the date accepted for the birth of Christ but some centuries later. I can only wonder if he would have the same arrogance if dealing with a faith other than Christian.

Keep up the good work and I look forward to future issues.

Nigel Flackney

Reply: I am sorry that Mr. Flackney takes issue with my use of the Common Era dating convention, but this is now widespread in most academic publications and in fact has a very long history of usage. The BC/AD terminology, along with the Muslim AH and other religious dating systems, all presume a historical authenticity for people and events that do not necessarily accord with modern thinking. Therefore, a neutral and non-sectarian alternative seems preferable, regardless of what specific religion is involved. Mike Sinclair

searchout&about

Date	Event	Location/Organisation	Time	More Information
Now until Apr 19	Exhibition: Ancient lives new discoveries	British Museum		Members free. Book online. www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
Now-10 May	Exhibition: Roman Empire: Power and People	The MacManus, Dundee		www.mcmanus.co.uk
4 Apr	Paupers, pilgrims and priories	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
14&16 Apr	Antiquities only	Bonhams, London		Tel: 020 7468 8226
17 Apr	Tour: Roman Fort Gate	Museum of London	2pm-2.30pm	£2.65, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
18 Apr	Paupers, pilgrims and priories	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
20 Apr	Course: Everyday life in Medieval London	Museum of London	6.30pm-8.30pm	Book in advance. Tel. 020 7631 6316 for pricing.
20 Apr-6 Jul	Course: Everyday Life in Medieval London	Museum of London	6.30pm-8.30pm	www.museumoflondon.org.uk
7 Apr	Fellows: Valuation Day	The Arden Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon	9am-5pm	Free. www.fellows.co.uk/valuations
7 Apr	Gallery Talk: Arms and armour: war, tournament and display	British Museum, Room 40	1.15pm-2pm	Free www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
12 Apr	SMA Trust Charity Rally	Midlands Federation of MDCs/ Nr Shipston on Stour Warwickshire	9.30am-4pm	See ad on page 64
21 Apr	Gallery Talk: Treasures of Ancient Gaul	British Museum, Room 70	1.15pm-2pm	Free www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
26 Apr	Mayoral Charity Rally/ with Tempus MD & Mayor of Rochdale	Heywood, Rochdale	9am	£10 per ticket. Call Dave Sadler 07805688610 or www.tempusmetaldetecting.co.uk
3 May	Tour: Around the world in 90 minutes	Museum of London Archaeological Archive	11am-12.30pm	£7.50. Book in advance. Tel: 0207 011 9844
4 May	Medieval Merriments	NT Bodiam Castle	11am-4pm	www.nationaltrust.org.uk
10 May	Midland Coin Fair/ DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk
13 May	Coin auction	Classical Numismatic Group		Tel: 020 7495 1888
16-17 May	Jacobite Rebellion re-enactment weekend	NT Claremont Lanscape Gardens	10.30am-4.30pm	www.nationaltrust.org.uk
17 May	Tour: Around the world in 90 minutes	Museum of London Archaeological Archive	2pm-3.30pm	£7.50. Book in advance. Tel: 0207 011 9844
6 Jun	Midland Coin Fair/DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk
7 Jun	Tour: What, this old thing?	Museum of London Archaeological Archive	11am-12.30pm	£7.50. Book in advance. Tel: 0207 011 9844
21 Jun	Tour: What, this old thing?	Museum of London Archaeological Archive	2pm-3.30pm	£7.50. Book in advance. Tel: 0207 011 9844
12 Jul	Midland Coin Fair/DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk
1 Aug	Treasure Chest Exhibition - Exhibition of Metal Detecting Discoveries	North West Region NCMD/ Chester Town Hall	10am-4pm	Admission FREE
9 Aug	Midland Coin Fair/DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk
6 Sept	Rotary Charity Rally	Midlands Federation/Leicester	9.30am-4pm	See ad on page 64
11 Oct	Midland Coin Fair/DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk
8 Nov	Midland Coin Fair/DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk
13 Dec	Midland Coin Fair/DNW in attendance	National Motorcycle Museum		Queries and appts: jim@dnw.co.uk

If you would like your event included in this column please email us on: info@thesearcher.co.uk
or write to: 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PX
For more events see www.thesearcher.co.uk/events

The Searcher in no way whatsoever involved with the organisation or running of any events advertised on this page and cannot be held responsible for anything that may occur at the event. All enquiries and/or complaints should be made to the relevant organiser.



The Collectors' Auctioneers



Shrewsbury mint Halfcrown 1642

Sold for £22,800

*Should you wish to sell or have valued
a single find or entire hoard,
please contact Chris Webb chris@dnw.co.uk*

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Hello again from Jersey!

'Derek' Update

By Richard Miles

© Neil Mahrer

Is it really a year since I last gave you an update about that wonderful but inanimate object of ours we call 'Derek'? For the purpose of those new to the magazine, hobby, or just do not know what happened here on our little Channel Island in May 2012 I shall spare a brief paragraph to explain.

My good friend and lifelong detecting buddy Reg Mead and I were fortunate enough to find the largest hoard of Iron Age coins discovered in Western Europe. The hoard, an estimated 70,000 coins, were fused by corrosion together with items of gold and silver jewellery. In the absence of any local Treasure legislation, 'Derek' (for numismatic and scientific clarity, it is now called Le Catillon II) was declared to, and claimed by the UK Crown.

It took the Crown and our local government two years to settle on a process that would allow the conservation and display of the hoard. The States of Jersey decided to follow the terms of the UK Treasure Act 1996 which we know hope will mean the Island will purchase the treasure

from the Crown allowing it to remain in Jersey.

In June 2014, 'Derek' went on display at Jersey Museum in a purpose-built 'lab' where the public have enjoyed the fascinating process of the disassembly to date. It is from here that I would like to pick up this brief update and give you all a round-up of the discoveries we've made so far.

Figure 1 is a selection of the cleaned coins currently in our window display. Interestingly, the hoard is revealing a huge quantity of quarter staters of the CORIOSOLITAE tribe. These particular coins are extremely rare and little information is currently available. Numismatic study and that of the even smaller coin denominations weighing less than a gram known to us as 'petit billon' will form a whole new body of research.



Figure 1
© Neil Mahrer



Figure 2
© Neil Mahrer

These tiny little coins are thought to have been manufactured between 40-10 BC. Because of their rarity they have not previously been considered part of the Celtic monetary system. Mainly, they are found on ritual sites and few found outside these contexts. A number of other intriguing, and little understood coinage has also been discovered such as the example in **figure 2**, a silver *minimi* or 'Pallas Athena' type minor denomination.

By far the vast majority of the coins excavated from the hoard can be assigned to the tribes inhabiting the territories of eastern Brittany and western Normandy. They were minted within the territories of the *CORIOSOLITAE* tribe (centred on the modern day town of Corseul in Brittany), and the *UNELLI* tribe (Normandy peninsula). Coinage of other tribes including the *Veneti* (southern Brittany), the *Osismii* (eastern Brittany), the *Baiocasses* (modern day Bayeaux) and the *Redones* (modern day Rennes) have also been discovered within the hoard.

Initial thinking was that this hoard had been buried in Jersey as a refugee hoard escaping the Romans during Julius Caesar's campaigns in Gaul 58 – 52 BC. The discovery of three British coins, units known as Hampshire thin flans (**figure 3**) dating to around 50-30BC have been particularly significant. Together with the 'petit billon' these coins provide evidence to suggest that the hoard may have been buried post conquest i.e. after 52BC.



Figure 3 © Neil Mahrer

Figure 4 is a small selection of some of the gold coins. They include two *Tent* type staters of the *Osismii* tribe, an extremely rare and beautiful little gold quarter stater of *Osismii* origin and a gold stater from the *Baiocasses* tribe.



Figure 4 © Neil Mahrer

We have recently excavated an area not much bigger than a shoebox and this has revealed an astounding array of precious metal jewellery. Some of these items were visible on the outside wall of the hoard before the excavation began and we barely dared to hope that there would be more.

We were not disappointed! At the time of writing, we have discovered two huge gold neck torcs each with solid gold rotating wheels. Eight other smaller similar objects have been partly revealed (four solid objects, two hollow gold tubes, one gold plated torc and a large round silver or silver and gold object which has a rectangular shape. We don't yet know whether this is a torc or something different).

We cannot yet tell if all these objects are complete but hopefully they will be (**figure 5**). A silver ingot can be seen beneath the torcs and several small bronze or billon ingots were also recovered from this area together with a gorgeous silver bracelet that cleverly can be altered to fit the wearer (**figure 6**).



Figure 5 © Neil Mahrer



Figure 6 © Neil Mahrer

Reg and I have been really fortunate that Jersey Heritage have so closely involved us throughout this ongoing project. Together with the conservation team consisting of Jersey Heritage's conservator Neil Mahrer and his two assistants Vicky Le Quelenc and Georgia Kelly (**figure 7**), we work on a voluntary basis at the Museum cleaning and identifying the coins.

We have received many comments from the general public and visiting professionals alike who wholeheartedly approve of the finders being permitted to work alongside the experts on such a unique assignment.



Figure 7 © Scott Miles

Since the opening of the exhibition last June, we have met a number of lovely *Searcher* readers who visited our shores this past summer. If we can, Reg and I make ourselves available to visitors and come out of the lab to discuss the finds and the project.

If you manage a visit to the Channel Islands this year, Jersey Museum is open daily from the 25 March 2015. The hoards disassembly will remain on public view but moves location to La Hougue Bie Museum from September onward. The work continues

there where again the public can fully enjoy the excavation process.

Guernsey are also holding their own summer exhibition which will feature some of the coins and artefacts from 'Derek' together with objects from their fascinating Iron Age warrior burials and Roman shipwreck discoveries around the Island.

We look forward to meeting you in the near future and, as our work progresses, I hope to give you regular updates as discoveries continue. For now, happy searching to you all.



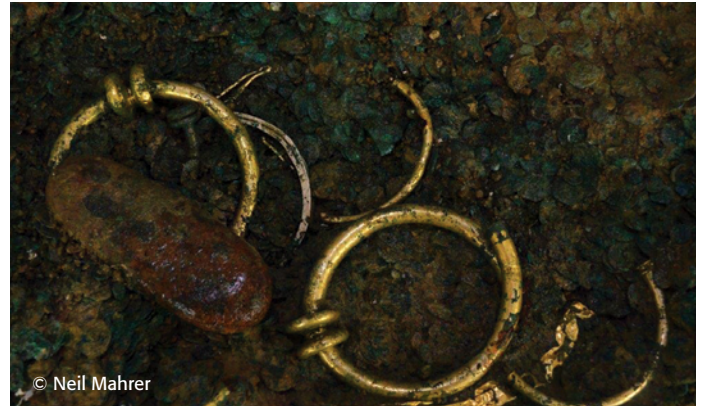
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The Chetwode Quadrant



Quadrant © Simon Neal

By John Davis

In June of 2014, I brought you the story of an early 'navigation' device found in the Netherlands, the Zutphen Quadrant, one of the most ingenious of medieval instruments and extremely rare.

In that article I mentioned that Dr John Davis of the British Sundial Society had written a comprehensive and learned account in an earlier BSS Bulletin. Dr Davis later contacted me to correct a couple of errors made in the original story, saying it was more of a timekeeper (Rolex watch) than the Tom-Tom stated in my analogy.

He also took the opportunity to say that he would be very keen to collaborate with any detectorist who had found anything vaguely 'scientific' and invited them to get in touch with him. We never expected a response ... and so soon!

In October of that same year detectorist Simon Neal of Oxford found an 'horary quadrant'. It may not look an exciting find to the layman, but it's a historically important one for this country.

Apart from press and technical journals, *The Searcher* is pleased to bring you this exclusive account by Dr Davis. **John Winter**

The small quadrant found by detectorist Simon Neal might not, at first sight, look particularly exciting as it is small (radius of 51mm and thickness of about 1mm) and has only a simple set of lines on it. But it is this very simplicity, added to its rarity and the fact that the numerals are clearly in a late-medieval script, that are the clue to its importance as an early time-keeping instrument.

The device is of a general type known as an horary quadrant and it is delineated to indicate the time in the old 'unequal hour' (or 'seasonal hour') scheme in which the time from sunrise to sunset is divided up into twelve 'hours', which will be longer in the summer than in the winter. Noon, in the middle of the day, will be at the end of the sixth hour. The night-time was also divided up into twelve

hours, counting from sunset, but only at the equinoxes were the daytime and night-time hours of equal duration. This scheme seems very strange to us today but it has many practical advantages in a society where work was ruled by the availability of daylight and it was the one most commonly used by the general population throughout the late middle ages.

On the Chetwode Quadrant it is the engraved semi-circular line, which indicates noon. The other part-circles with increasing radii show the successive hours either before or after noon – the user had to know which part of the day it was as the hours are symmetrical about noon and, in this case, they are not numbered. The same basic scheme of hour-lines is also commonly found on the backs of astrolabes. Astrolabes were very expensive and highly prized: several hundred of them have survived and are to be found in museums and other collections.

Simple quadrants, more affordable but still expensive, might have been owned by scholars, wealthy merchants or senior churchmen. They were probably relatively common but are today almost unknown as they would not have been valued once they were superseded and the brass would have been recycled. Thus the finding of the Chetwode example is a great benefit to the history of science.

The modern scheme of 24 hours of equal length throughout the year and counted from noon and midnight had been known and used by astronomers since antiquity. It only started to become the normal form of everyday timekeeping with the coming of mechanical timekeepers starting at the end of the 13th century.

The Zutphen Quadrant, found by the detectorist Sicco Siegers of the Netherlands in 2012 and reported in *The Searcher* of June 2014, was a very early example of an instrument delineated to show this form of time. Throughout the 14th century, both equal and unequal hours were used – it must have been most confusing!

The Chetwode Quadrant, like all horary quadrants, works by measuring the altitude (height) of the sun. It was used by pointing it at the sun and tipping it so that a pinhole in the foresight cast a spot of light on the backsight. The sun's altitude was then indicated by a plumb-bob hanging from the apex of the quadrant. On the Chetwode example the sights and the plumb-bob are, not surprisingly, absent.

Because the sun has a different altitude at a given hour for different days of the year, some means of incorporating this information has to be built into the quadrant. This was accomplished by placing a sliding bead on the string of the plumb-bob with its position chosen to suit the season. The position of the bead amongst the hour-lines then indicated the time.

Different types of quadrant used various means of doing this. It is unclear how it was intended to achieve this on the Chetwode Quadrant as it does not have a date scale (as the Zutphen find has) and there is no table of solar altitudes on the back, as is found on a group of quadrants made at the end of the 14th century for Richard II (see *The Searcher*, No. 347, p. 1, July 2014, for an illustration).

The very simple design of the Chetwode Quadrant is sometimes known by the Latin



Above: The British Museum *quadrans vetus*, an unequal-hour quadrant with moving cursor.
© Trustees of the British Museum.

name *quadrans vetustissimus* ('oldest quadrant') and can be found in an Islamic manuscript from 9th century Baghdad.

By the late 13th century, a more sophisticated version of the design using the same set of lines to indicate unequal hours was described in the Latin West by John of Montpellier. This later became known as the *quadrans vetus* (old quadrant) or the 'quadrant with cursor' as it incorporated a large sliding cursor which moved in a curved track around the outside of the basic set of hour-lines. This was used to set the position of the bead for the date and at the appropriate latitude.

Only a very small number of actual instruments still exist: examples can be found in the British Museum the Oxford Museum of the History of Science, and in the Museo Galileo in Florence.

The Chetwode Quadrant also incorporates a 'shadow square', a simple geometrical arrangement, which allows the heights of distant buildings to be measured. Its two scales are divided [0], 4, 8, 12 twice. The altitude scale is divided to individual degrees (not an insignificant task in an age without protractors) and numbered [0], 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, [90]. The numerals are engraved quite deeply and skilfully by a craftsman with a 'burin' or graver. Their form is clearly from the medieval period but they are difficult to date accurately – any time from the mid 13th century is possible.

It is worth considering the circumstances in which the Chetwode Quadrant was found. Whereas the Zutphen instrument was discovered in a beautifully layered context in which it could be closely dated by many other finds, such as coins and pottery, the Chetwode device was simply found in the topsoil of an agricultural field without any closely associated finds. A cut farthing from the reign of Henry III (r. 1216–72) was

found within a metre of the quadrant but in England that can hardly be considered secure dating evidence, although it could be a sign of medieval occupation.

The find site was near a footpath that led to Chetwode Priory, a very small Augustinian outpost founded in 1244 by Sir Ralph de Norwich. The possible association with Norwich is an intriguing one as the county of Norfolk has been a particularly rich area for detectorist finds and a significant percentage of early pocket timekeeping instruments have been found there.

One of the items found by a Norfolk detectorist in 2009 was a fragment of a small quadrant very similar to the Chetwode one. Comparisons are still being made but it is possible to speculate that there could have been a link between Norwich, famed for its very early astronomical clock in the cathedral, and Chetwode.

Another interesting coincidence is that the licence for the foundation of Chetwode Priory was signed by Robert Grosseteste (c. 1175–1253), the Bishop of Lincoln and widely recognised as one of the leading proto-scientists of the era. Grosseteste did not write on the quadrant but copies of his works on astronomy and the sphere are sometimes found in codices that also contain instructions on drawing quadrants and other sundials.

Thus, whilst it is not suggested that Grosseteste had any direct connection to the Chetwode Quadrant, the general interest by scholarly churchmen in timekeeping and cosmology is illustrated.

An alternative possibility for the source of the Chetwode example is St Albans Abbey, not very far away and known to have been supplying quadrants to ex-queen Isabella in the 1350s. But our knowledge of the manufacture of mathematical instruments in the medieval period is very far from complete.



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Recently I've tested several detectors that haven't followed the normal formula for machines designed for the UK's coin and artefact market. This month I'm testing a pulse induction machine of this type, the Garrett ATX, which lends its design to the countermine industry. This on the face of it seems a good idea, as these machines tend to be very rugged and waterproof in design. However, being waterproof and rugged tends to make a detector quite weighty. With this in mind Garrett have supplied a simple harness to distribute the weight more evenly.

Out of the box

The ATX comes pre-assembled, and it's simply a matter of releasing the two catches, twisting the coil and rotating the stem 90°. Then fully extend the lower, then middle stems,



before finally extending the upper stem until a suitable length is achieved for your personal attributes (height and arm length). Finally lock the catch in front of the handgrip and the second catch in front of the arm-cup, locking the stem into position. Assembly is achieved in less than 30 seconds.

Controls

The ATX is switched on using a simple twist two-position switch found at the rear of the detector. To the right of this switch is a headphone port where you can attach the supplied headphones. Simply locate the connector into the back of the machine and snap into place, locking the connection with a screw twist knurled collar.



On the control pad located at the top of the handgrip, are seven buttons used to change the modes and settings of the detector.



These buttons are made of rubber and marked with white and red decals.

The first button is the shift button that changes the use of the other buttons. To make it easy to understand, the other buttons are also marked in white and red decals. For this description I'll call the white decals the normal (non-shift) position, and the red decals, the shift position.

On the left are two buttons impressed with a plus and minus character. These have two uses. In normal (non-shift) they operate Sensitivity of the ATX. Once the shift button is used and the shift light is on, this button adjusts the detectors Discrimination feature.

To the right of the shift button is the IRON CK/FREQ SCAN button. A short press operates a frequency scan, and once pressed and held it operates an iron check mode where iron gives a low growl. Once the shift button is pressed it then becomes the GND BAL/GND TRACK control. Holding this button and bobbing the coil over clear ground balances the detector to the mineralisation in the ground.

Below this is the largest button, marked RETUNE/PINPOINT in white. A short press returns the audio to zero, which is mainly important while searching in Non-Motion mode. Press and hold this button and you enter the Pinpoint mode, where you can better identify the position of the target before digging.

Once in the shift mode it operates the search mode selection, changing between MOTION and NON-MOTION. In motion the LED lights 4 to 9 are seen scanning back and forth for a few seconds, and in non-motion they are static.

The last two buttons to the right are also impressed with a plus and minus character. The first use is to adjust the Threshold, and once in the shift mode this button operates the Volume. This isn't Volume in the normal sense, more a volume limit controlling the loudest noises from the ATX.

Any adjustments are saved when the detector is switched off. If it becomes necessary to do a factory reset, it's easily done by pressing and holding the RETUNE/PINPOINT button while starting up the machine.

LEDs

There are 16 LED lights on the control panel. The solo green LED indicates the detector is switched on. The red LED to the left indicates that machine is in Shift mode when lit. There is also an orange low battery indicator to the right of the green LED. Lastly there are 13 numbered LEDs from left to right across the top of the display. These indicate the settings set on the detector, scan progress and target intensity.

Test bed

My test bed has seen some spectacular fails while testing pulse induction metal detectors. They normally handle the mineralisation well, but become unusable due to all the iron junk. So, with much trepidation I switched on the ATX, hearing the four beeps indicating fully charged battery packs (1 beep would mean low charge). All other settings were the factory defaults.

Over the test bed and my worse fears came true. The noise from all the iron was horrific, but I did hear all the targets down to 12". What was interesting was the iron check feature, which managed to ID all the shallow iron targets with a low growl.

Field test

With any PI detector it's important to take it on the right site. These are NOT machines that will excel in iron-infested soils. Where the ATX will excel is where ground conditions are a problem due to mineralisation or salt saturation. Also it's best to have low amounts of ferrous junk, as pulse induction loves iron.

The first site I chose was clay, had low iron contamination but with the ability of producing the occasional deep Celtic gold stater. I arrived early on a cold December morning, parked my car and then set off down a muddy track to the field. After walking the half-mile I was eager to get searching, so removed my backpack, got out the detector and transformed it into its glorious operational state. There's something really pleasurable about the way it assembles.

I set the detector up in motion mode, with the Threshold making a slight hum and started detecting. I was really impressed how stable it ran, and soon dug a small lead pistol shot at around 8". At the end of the session I found nothing of any age, but the majority of targets dug were non-ferrous as I was able to reject most of the surface iron using the iron check feature.

The most popular use for a PI machine in the UK is detecting on



the beach. Saltwater in sand gives many machines real problems with stability. PI detectors tend to be virtually unaffected by this issue, and give extreme depth and Sensitivity in these environments. I decided to take the ATX to a Bournemouth beach I'd last detected in the late 1970s, when I'd found four gold rings close to a groin. We called these areas 'glory holes' back then although that name has taken on a dodgier meaning nowadays!

Arriving at the beach I could see there had obviously been a recent storm, as I could now step over a 4' railing where shingle had been stacked up over the footpath against a wall. I was hopeful I'd find a ring or two. Alas, after an hour digging pieces of aluminum drink cans, I was counting £2 coins as my best finds.

The ATX performed well, and was most stable in challenging conditions. I was amazed at the depth on large items on the beach, and could hear the responses from large pieces of iron and reinforced concrete posts at several feet.

Conclusion

The Garrett ATX is an impressive machine, extremely well built if not somewhat over engineered. It folds down to easily fit in a backpack, but it's quite heavy and the supplied bungee strap is a welcome addition. If I was to own this detector I would use it as a specialist hoard machine where it would excel. I rarely detect beaches, so for me this isn't important, but for those who do would find this machine perfect for their needs.

I have only scratched the surface of this machine's capabilities, using it for several months, but perhaps it's not a machine for anyone living so far from the sea. However, I can envisage many detectorists finding amazing things using the Garrett ATX.

Test Results Garrett ATX (Scores out of ten based on price category)	
Ergonomics (weight/balance):	8
Simplicity/User Friendliness:	9
Build quality:	10
Weather resistance:	10
Discrimination Performance:	5
Overall detection Performance:	9
Value for money (£1,995):	8
SEARCHER RATING	

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PRODUCT TEST



Garrett Pro-Pointer AT

Spec sheet	
Operating Temperatures:	-35°F (-37°C) to 158°F (70°C)
Operating Frequency:	11.5 kHz
Waterproof Rating:	10' (3m) maximum depth; IP 68
Tuning:	Automatic or manual retune
Indicators:	Proportional audio/vibration pulse rate
Controls:	Power, Retune, Adjust switch
Dimensions:	Length: 9" (22.9cm)
Thickness:	1.5" (3.8cm) tapered to .875" (2.2cm)
Weight:	6.5 oz. (0.2kg), with battery in
Battery:	Alkaline battery life: 30 hours
Battery Life:	Carbon: 16 hours
Alkaline:	30 hours
Rechargeable:	8 hours
Warranty:	2 Years, Limited Parts/Labour
RRP:	£124.95

The original Garrett Pro-Pointer came onto the market back in 2008. Since then it has become a firm favourite and, in my experience, the most popular pinpoint probe on the UK rally scene.

The new All Terrain version retains the patented scraping blade and proportional audio/vibration of the original Pro-Pointer but combines these with some useful new features. The most apparent difference is the colour, bright orange instead of the original black, for increased

visibility against a variety of backgrounds. The whole probe is now waterproof to 10' (3m), it also has a bigger, reinforced, operation button and a more functional speaker housing, which allows you to wash away any dirt that may accumulate in the sound holes. The hardwearing plastic case now has an attachment point for a lanyard and a moulded scale in both centimetres and inches.

If the high visibility colour and lanyard attachment don't ease your fears of losing your new Pro-Pointer, there is also a lost pinpoint alarm. This will activate if you leave the AT switched on and the button isn't pressed for five minutes (eg. if you accidentally leave the probe where you dug your last target). After five minutes a series of warning chirps will begin to sound, to help you relocate your probe. These gradually increase in frequency and last for a further five minutes, after which the probe will switch off automatically to conserve battery power. The battery is a single 9v (included) and is accessed via the screw-on end cap. A dual-tone low battery alarm will tell you when this needs replacing.

Operation is simple. Press the button once to turn on and, to turn off, hold the button until you hear a single beep (approx 1 second). Switch on and you will hear a beep, followed by another beep half a second later. You're now ready to pinpoint. Sensitivity adjustment and vibration-only are accessed by holding the button in for two seconds, a single beep followed by a double tone and flashing LED indicate the probe is now in adjustment mode. Pressing the button again will give you your current level and further presses will cycle through the six available settings. These are: Audio+Vibrate Low/Medium/High and Vibrate Only Low/Medium/High. The settings are indicated by one/two/three combined beeps and vibration pulses, or vibration pulses only. The medium setting is an equivalent level to the fixed Sensitivity of the



standard Pro-Pointer. Holding the button again for two seconds will take you back out of adjustment mode. As a guide, the distances from which it will pick up a hammered silver penny (18mm/1.3g) are: Low - 20mm; medium - 40mm; high - 60mm.

Another new feature is 'Fast Retune'. If a target is giving a wide signal, making accurate pinpointing difficult, a quick press of the button whilst the AT is giving a response will narrow the detection field and give a more precise location for the target. This can be repeated multiple times, if necessary. Fast retune can also be used to eliminate unwanted responses from mineralised ground, wet sand or saltwater. Simply touch the tip to the ground and quick-press the button to retune.

Out in the field I found the Pro-Pointer AT was a joy to use. I chose to start with the Audio+Vibrate mode at full Sensitivity. The probe was perfectly stable at this setting with no falsing, even when knocked. The increased Sensitivity meant that finds could more quickly be located in the spoil and the Fast Retune feature worked great for when more precision was needed down a hole. Only one of the fields I visited during testing was mineralised enough to cause the AT to react to the ground itself. To start with, I simply tuned out the ground by using Fast Retune but after a couple of holes I dropped the Sensitivity down to Medium and normal service was resumed.

As this is an all-terrain probe I even dragged myself into a local stream to test its capabilities in the icy February water. Although I didn't push anywhere near the 10' depth limit, the probe performed just as well underwater and the proportional vibrations were powerful enough to clearly indicate a target when the deep water muffled the sound from the speaker.

Overall, I couldn't fault the Pro-Pointer AT. It is light, easy to use one-handed and has some great features. The LED light is bright enough to see into the darkest of holes and the webbing holster supplied with it keeps a firm hold on the probe between uses. With a retail price of £124.95 I think it is good value, especially when backed with a two-year warranty and Garrett's proven customer service record.



Competition: Win a Pro-Pointer AT!

Our thanks go to Garrett for giving us one to give away worth £124.95 as a prize. For your chance to win just answer the following question: To what depth is the Pro-Pointer AT waterproof to? Fill in the coupon below (no photocopies allowed unless you are a current subscriber and your number is required) with your answer and send it to us at the Pro-Pointer AT Competition, *The Searcher*, 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2PX. Closing date for all entries by 3 April together with your name, address and contact number. Good luck!

Please enter me in the draw for the Pro-Pointer AT competition:

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App subscribers ONLY simply either do a 'screen grab' of the page, print it out and post the coupon OR attach the screen grab to an email and send it to info@thesearcher.co.uk.

Competition Rules:

This competition is open to all readers except employees of *The Searcher* (which includes all regular contributors and their families) and our printers and distributors: Warners Group PLC. Only one entry is permitted per person. Entries will be accepted by POST only addressed to: Pro-Pointer AT Competition, *The Searcher*, 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 2PX. **App subscribers ONLY** by email or post. To be valid, entries need to be received on or before 3 April. The draw will take place soon after and the winners will be notified by telephone (if possible).

There is no cash or other alternative to the prizes stated and the prizes is not transferable and no part or parts of the prize may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions. The judges decision is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post.





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In an average edition of your magazine we publish well over 20 club reports showing finds by members. Some of them are astounding. As a thank you and a celebration we'd like to award a token of appreciation for all your efforts.

As last year we have decided to award a complementary one-year subscription and a binder in which to keep the 12 issues to what we consider to be the Best Coin and Best Artefact shown in 2014. Our experts Peter D. Spencer has judged the coin category and Brian Read has judged the artefact section. Both have trawled through every edition of last year and chosen an overall winner in each category. Their second and third choices come as highly recommended.

The best coins featured during 2014

By Peter D. Spencer

2014 was no different to any previous year, in that there were several outstanding coins in the Club Activities section of *The Searcher*. Anyone having a quick look through the relevant pages will see an amazing selection of Ancient British, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman, later medieval, Tudor and Stuart coins in gold, silver and base metal – plus many early and later milled coins and tokens. As well as proving that lots of good material is still being unearthed, it also highlights the fact that clubs and individual detectorists like to share their finds with others.

Picking a first, second and third might sound like an easy task but I know from experience that it certainly isn't. The rarity and state of preservation of coins are the two main points that need to be taken into consideration, and some coins that in themselves aren't rare can be rare as detecting finds. Putting together an initial list is quite easy but the difficulty starts when it has to be cut down to only three contenders. After going through all the issues of 2014 I found that I had picked out 34 coins. This, of course, meant that I had some drastic editing to do.

I decided to trim down my list as much as possible and that left me with the coins that follow on. In each case I give the month, the coin, the club name and the name of the finder.



Figure 1

January: Ancient British gold quarter stater, **Figure 1** (Hert's and District MDC, Graham Batt); January: Cuthred penny, **Figure 2** (Weymouth & Portland MDC, Dave Cobb);



Figure 2

February: Edward VI shilling, **Figure 3** (SHRADS, Tony Brown); February: Edward III gold noble,



Figure 3

Figure 4 (Hert's & District MDC, John Walsingham); April: heart-shaped 17th century token, **Figure 5**



Figure 4

(Wrexham Heritage Society, Lawrence Guiel); May: Roman siliqua of Julian II, **Figure 6** (Norwich Detectors,



Figure 5

John Coggles): June: Edward the Martyr penny, **Figure 7** (East Norfolk MDC, Peter Belson); June: Edward the Confessor penny, **Figure 8**



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

(Derby Artefacts Recovery Club, Adam Staples); July: Philip and Mary shilling, **Figure 9** (South Lanc's & Cheshire MDC, Mark Batty); September: Anglo-Saxon sceatta,



Figure 9

Figure 10 (Weymouth & Portland MDC, Roland Green); September:



Figure 10



Figure 11

Henry V groat, **Figure 11** (East Norfolk MDS, Peter Lacey); October: George III half guinea, **Figure 12** (Quakers Acres MDC, Graeme Thompson); October: David II of Scotland halfgroat, **Figure 13**



Figure 12



Figure 13

(Pembrokeshire Prospectors Society, Phil Jenkins): October: George III and Queen Charlotte marriage medal, **Figure 14** (Pembrokeshire Prospectors Society): November: Bilston shilling token, **Figure 15** (Four Quarters MDC, 'Donshare'); November: Ancient British gold stater,



Figure 14



Figure 15

Figure 16 (Hinckley Search Society, Barrie Davis); December: Anne 'VIGO' shilling, **Figure 17** (South Lanc's and Cheshire MDC, Perry Webster); December: Prince Henry of



Figure 16



Figure 17

Scotland penny, **Figure 18** (Quakers Acres MDC, Alan Fenwick); December: Henry V farthing, **Figure 19** (Norwich Detectors, Damian Algar). Each of these coins was significant



Figure 18



Figure 19

in some way, either in terms of its rarity as a detecting find or because of its condition. However, when I counted up the contenders I realised I still had at total of 19 on my list. Quite obviously, this meant that some really interesting finds would have to be knocked out of the running.

I now aimed to cut the number down to no more than six coins, which resulted in the following shortlist. From the February issue I chose the Edward III noble. There were several hammered gold coins in the Club Activities section during 2014 but this was undoubtedly the best. From the same issue I picked out the Edward VI shilling. From the reduced size images in *The Searcher* this appeared to be a base issue, with a profile portrait on the obverse. What made it stand out is its condition, which is outstanding. However, when inquiries were made this turned out to be from a hoard of six forgeries. I still consider it to be a delightful coin and would have placed it in the top three but after going through the other contenders I decided against it. Coin number three was in the May issue: the siliqua of Julian II. This isn't a particularly scarce Roman coin but I'd say it is in better condition than any other of the 2014 finds of the same period. Number four is from the October issue and instead of being a coin this is a silver medal, struck to commemorate

the marriage in 1761 of George III to Charlotte of Mecklenberg-Strelitz. Like the last item, this isn't particularly scarce but it is the first I have seen as a detecting find. The next appeared in the November issue and is an Ancient British gold stater. It's not unusual to unearth these things in certain parts of England but this is a really superb specimen; it has been sharply struck and is a lovely 'golden' gold colour. The last contender is the Prince Henry of Scotland silver penny. This is a very rare coin, which was struck whilst the Scots were in control of parts of Northern England. The coin is weak in places but a very good example of the type. To reach this stage I had discounted some really fine and rare coins.

Any of the final six coins could be the winner but I had to settle on a first, second and third in order of significance. Personal preference is always an aspect of judging and some might not agree with my choices. However, after much thought and careful consideration I gave third place to the Julian siliqua (Norwich Detectors, John Coggles). As I've already said, this isn't a rare coin but it's the most attractive Roman silver coin to be featured in the Club Activities section during 2014. Second place went to the Edward III gold noble (Hert's & District MDC, found by John Walsingham). Any detectorist would be delighted to unearth a hammered gold coin and several do each year. However, most have defects of one kind or another but the coin found by Mr Walsingham is in really outstanding condition. So, we have a second and third but what have I picked as the best club coin of 2014? For me one coin stood out: the Prince Henry penny (Quakers Acres MDC, found by Alan Fenwick); I would love to dig up a coin like this one but the odds are stacked heavily against me. Why do I consider this coin to be really special? Well, it is very rare, in good condition for the period and is a distinctive type. It is also one of the few coins that count as being both English and Scottish, for it bears the name of a Scottish Prince but was struck in England.

This year some really nice finds have already appeared in the 'Club Activities' section of *The Searcher*, so I've no doubt that judging the most significant coin of 2015 will be just as difficult.

Artefact Category

By Brian Read

The 2014 Club Activities section of *The Searcher* again reported a goodly selection of artefactual finds, all of them interesting and many outstanding. Our editor placed on my shoulders the difficult task of selecting what I considered to be the three best objects uncovered in 2014.

Of course, opinions are subjective: to quote a cliché *beauty is in the eye of the beholder*. My decisions are based on significance, rarity, condition, and, importantly, from the evidence provided,

the ability to interpret what I am looking at. Precious metal bears no weight with me: objects of base-metal are frequently considerably more important.

With regard to significance, two points are worth considering. **One:** a seemingly mundane object may prove important because it contributes greatly to the known record. For example, the recent discovery of two small copper-alloy plates, each having a projecting stud, in my opinion almost certainly suggests they are male sections of two-section clasps; the female sections have keyhole-shaped apertures in their back-

plates. Although it's not conclusive, it took more than three decades to perhaps have resolved this enigma. **Two:** another factor is findspot – what is ubiquitous in one region may be previously unheard of elsewhere; therefore a sole object may rewrite history and archaeology. This is certainly the case for Roman southern Devon, where detecting has disproved orthodox archaeology.

Sadly, as with 2013, it is necessary to have a whinge: assessing an object from photos is fraught enough without having to contend with poor quality images. Well lit, in focus shots of both front and back (and sometimes

sides) are required (thankfully, some scribes already do this).

Lack of space precludes the editor from publishing every perspective of an object, but if they are submitted, the images may be stored for future use if needed. Frequently, for artefacts more so than numismatic items, the written identifications and attributions are totally inaccurate.

Several excellent objects stated to be so and so, are obviously not; while others possibly correct, could not be confirmed due to the absence of back views, which meant their elimination. Therefore before submitting club reports, if scribes are uncertain, please study appropriate reference material.

Omission of finder's names also meant elimination. Whinge over! I really must congratulate all club members and scribes for sharing their respective discoveries with readers of this outstanding magazine *The Searcher*. **Knowledge unshared is knowledge lost.**

Among others, the following submissions all received due consideration: Bronze Age – Brighton & District MDC, Guy Southwell, flat axe; East Norfolk MDS, Martin Wright, flanged axe; Herts & District MDS, Peter Tilson, dagger; Blackpool MDC, Keith Phillipson, socketed axe. Roman – East Norfolk MDS, Gerry Cook, bust of Mercury; Kendal & District MDC, George Robinson, enamelled strap-fitting (is it a strap fitting? Discounted due to lack of back

view); Weymouth & Portland MDC, Eric Cole, gold finger-ring (looks Roman to me); Yeovil MDC, Bob March, oval glass-centred boss brooch. Early medieval – Weymouth & Portland MDC, Alan Davies, early Saxon buckle; Dave Cobb, 11th-century stirrup-strap mount and an anthropomorphic buckle (possibly earlier); Mid Kent MDC, David Chambers, Saxon silver hooked-clasp.



Gerry Cook from East Norfolk MDS Roman bust/mount of Mercury

Medieval – Weymouth & Portland MDC, Tom Jones, silver cross pendant (I believe it's later medieval); Derby Artefacts Recovery Club, Lisa Grace, carinated Skep sewing-thimble. Post-medieval – Blackpool MDC, Nigel Meakin, hornbook.

The winners for 2014 are:



1st: James Newell, Norwich Detectors – Iron Age lynchpin



2nd: Charles Kenyon, Lune Valley MDC – post-medieval horn book



3rd: Peter Barden, Essex Detector Society – medieval staff terminal

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The find of a lifetime

I have been detecting for just over a year now after a break of about 40 years, and machines have certainly improved since then. My wife bought me a new one for my 60th birthday present. Because I wanted a detector that wasn't too heavy and also programmable so we chose the XP Deus.



I joined Gwent MDC who raise a lot of money for local charities, mainly from the rallies they organise. It was on such a rally that I made my find of a lifetime.

The rally took place near Newport in South Wales. The first five hours I managed to find the usual buttons, buckles, a musket ball, the lead head of a Red Indian chief and many unrecognisable coins.

The chance of winning the memorial trophy for 'Find of the Day' was slowly slipping away, so it was time to change tactics and put plan 'B' into action and try another field.

I changed my detector settings and with only half an hour to go, got a good deep faint signal. Although I was very tired I started to dig. After

a while I could see part of a silver object at the bottom of the hole. I gently removed the loose soil and couldn't believe my eyes!

The find of a lifetime - an 800 year old silver and gold 13th century cruciform pendant in amazing condition with clear Hebrew lettering on both sides of the central roundel. The large suspension loop had three arms with round knop on four sides.

After consultation with Jerry, a knowledgeable member of the club, we believe the translation of the letters on one side is You Are Mighty Forever O Lord. This was considered to be protection against fever and general ill-health during the medieval period. I can't wait to find out what the letters on the other side mean.

I rushed back to share my find with the organisers who were very excited to see it and a crowd soon gathered. It was then placed in the glass cabinet and was judged to be the best find of the day! I was presented with the memorial trophy and a bottle of Champagne. It doesn't get much better than that.

You never know what you are going to find next, that's the great thing about this hobby. I wonder who lost the pendant for it must have been very precious to them? I suppose you could say the rest is history.



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A must see!

The **Bedale Hoard** was found by Stuart Campbell and Steve Caswell in 2012 (see *The Searcher* April 2013) and bought by the Yorkshire Museum in May last year after generous donations from the public and grants from funders.

It has spent the last few months being conserved by the York Archaeological Trust (YAT), with fascinating and intricate details of the metalwork being uncovered for the first time.

Tiny cuts have become visible which show the testing of the purity of the silver. Samples of wood and textile have also been found which give clues to how it was buried.

Natalie McCaul, Curator of Archaeology at York Museums Trust, said: "It is only now that the hoard has been conserved that we can see its real beauty and the incredible craftsmanship involved in creating some of the artefacts.

"The Anglo Saxon sword pommel is probably the stand out piece. This is something that has been plundered by the Vikings and the conservation has meant we can now see the fantastic and delicate gold leaf patterns much more clearly and in some cases for the first time."

Natalie added: "The hoard is really making us think about this part of Yorkshire in the Viking Period in a different way. It contains objects from across the Viking world including rare and unique pieces such as the huge silver neckring; one of the largest examples of its type ever found".

As well as the inlaid gold sword pommel, unique silver neck ring and neck collar and the silver armring, it also includes 29 silver ingots, two other silver neck rings and gold rivets. Archaeologists believe it is from the late 9th or early 10th century.

New findings

Silver ingots were used by Vikings as a way of carrying silver and using it in trade. Conservation has revealed that several of the ingots in the Hoard have been engraved with the symbol of the cross, linking these parts of the hoard to Christianity. This is very unusual and asks the question why has it been done and what is it for?

The intricate details of the gold leaf work on the sword pommel

can be seen for the first time. This would have been done by highly skilled craftsmen.

The Anglo Saxon gold sword pommel, its guard and the gold rings from the handle were all removed from the weapon at some point before burial. Samples taken from the guard reveal both textile and wood fragments, suggesting the sword may have been wrapped in cloth and the hoard was buried in a wooden box.

The large gold sword pommel is made from iron and is inlaid with plaques of gold foil. These plaques bear Trewhiddle style decoration consisting of animals, which was a common style all over England in the 9th century.

This decoration is usually applied to silver and copper alloy and its use on gold is rare: its use on large foils, like those found here, is otherwise unknown.

With the pommel were four oval ring mounts from the grip of a sword. These are made from gold and they bear incised Trewhiddle style animal

interlace. Six, tiny, dome headed, gold rivets may also have been used on a sword

hilt. The unique neck collar is made up of four ropes of twisted silver strands joined together at each end. They terminate in hooks that would have been linked together when the collar was worn.

There are three other twisted neck rings, one of which has been cut in two as 'hack silver'. The two halves of this piece are also unique in several respects and together with the neck collar represent an unusual west Viking variant.

The hoard also contained a piece of a 'Permian' ring, cut as hack-silver – a design of Russian origin.

A broad, flat arm-ring of Hiberno-Scandinavian type, made by Vikings in Ireland, is also represented in the hoard. This is decorated with a pattern of stamp-impressed grooves. Also from Ireland are the hack-silver remains of a bossed penannular brooch.

The hoard is on show in the Medieval Gallery of the Yorkshire Museum now. www.yorkshireremuseum.org.uk





The hoard as found



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"A muddy form of scratch card"

Being a detectorist has its moments to treasure



By Mark Wallace

Photo courtesy of Michael Lander

Mark is a writer and political campaigner and has taken part in hundreds of television and radio interviews. He also writes regularly for a wide range of online and print publications on a variety of topics and speaks at dinners and political meetings. As well as having a degree in archaeology, he is also a detectorist.

My fingers are still cracked from the cold of a clear Monday in the Kent countryside. Wrapped up in numerous layers, my friend James and I were out with thermos flasks, shovels and detectors to explore the past hidden beneath the frozen turf.

Despite the news of a record-breaking find of 5,251 Anglo-Saxon coins, metal detecting is not a sexy hobby. The geeks of Mackenzie Crook's recent sitcom, *Detectorists*, are all too close to real life – and yes, we dig up more ring pulls than ancient coins. But you can keep your parkour, your sourdough baking or your street dance – they've got nothing on the joys of going digging.

Like all the best hobbies, detecting rests on a central streak of futility. For every interesting artefact you might find, there are a score of beeps that turn out to represent modern litter or a nugget of anonymous metal decayed beyond all recognition. Inevitably, you only find that out by digging a hole to reach your latest disappointment.



Mark Wallace

That's part of the fun. Each bit of rubbish that we search for and sweat to retrieve is an instant joke, or forgotten immediately as hope washes in while you backfill the divot dug to uncover it. Being out in a field somewhere in all weathers, powered by some sarnies and an endless optimism is an experience in itself –

it teaches you patience and in a hectic world it's refreshing to clear your mind of all but the occasional bleeps. The repeated rigmarole of digging a hole, scrabbling at the bottom, studying your find, then carefully refilling the hole and replacing the turf starts as a muddy form of scratch card and soon becomes a luck mantra in its own right.

As with so many fringe pursuits, metal detecting takes place mostly in a private world. Barring the occasional headlines of a big or rare find, it exists in empty fields and crowded internet forums, where people share their finds, identify mystery objects posted by others or offer tips on different kit and favoured tactics. It has its own slang (shotties for the rusted caps of shotgun cartridges, the detectorist's curse; hammies for the sought-after medieval hammered coins; grots for coinage rotten beyond identification), and its own community. Partners swiftly resign themselves to the fact that a corner of their house will likely

play host to a supposedly interesting collection of odds and ends that you can never display to any guest who isn't very keen on 17th-century lead trading tokens.

Inevitably, we fall victim to being misunderstood. Headlines reporting "treasure hunters" finding this or that miss the mark – most detectorists see themselves as amateur archaeologists adding to the knowledge of the nation, not Del Boys on a get-rich-quick scheme. If you went out expecting to come home with a haul of precious metal each day, you'd swiftly give up.

The misunderstanding isn't helped by the persistence of the inevitable minority of sinful detectorists – who enjoy the perhaps over-dramatic nickname of nighthawks. Normally operating under cover of darkness, hence the name, they dig on people's land without permission, trash registered archaeological sites and ignore the treasure laws for profit. They are rare but their impact is sufficient to make a sizeable number of landowners and professional archaeologists unduly suspicious of our hobby. As a result, the law-abiding lose out.

For most of us, though, the true value of the things we find is human, not monetary. These are the relics not of famous kings and saints but of ordinary people. My finds tray (which lives discreetly on top of a bookcase, after some domestic negotiations) contains the belongings of individuals lost to history: the spur of a late medieval horseman, the small change of a Georgian farm labourer, the coin weights of a Stuart market trader. None of those original owners have a museum exhibition to their name, or even a name at all in the modern day. But the artefacts they dropped, the loss of which they no doubt cursed, bring me a jolt of excitement each time one is washed of the soil that concealed it for centuries. A glance at the website of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, where detectorists voluntarily



© Keith Dodds

register their day-to-day finds, shows that these glorious mundanities are the vast bulk of what we turn up.

Of course, that's not to say it wouldn't be great to find a hoard. Paul Coleman, who unearthed those thousands of 10th and 11th-century coins, made the find of a lifetime. As his find undoubtedly falls under the Treasure Act, the coins will be valued by the Treasure Valuation Committee and bought from him by the nation – he deserves congratulations, thanks for his addition to our knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons and the sizeable bounty that will no doubt come his way.

But his experience is a rarity. For the bulk of his fellow detectorists, whom I'm sure he will rejoin in the fields when the itch starts again soon, such a find remains a fantasy. The day-to-day reality remains enough to

drive us out into the fields, headphones on, spade slung behind us, flogging back and forth in search of just a tiny glimmer of past centuries.

The cold-seared fingers with which I tap out this article are a minor irritation but I'm willing to overlook them. Because after a day of being battered by the December wind, and cutting through barely thawed turf, I finally brought a small, muddy nugget up from the ground. A quick clean revealed a glimmer of gold and a tiny, recognisable shape: he was missing his legs and worn by the years, but in my hand was a lead angel, cast and gilded likely in the medieval era. His right hand is raised, and he has what looks like a sword belt slung around his waist. And he makes it all worthwhile.

First published in *The Guardian* 2 January 2015.

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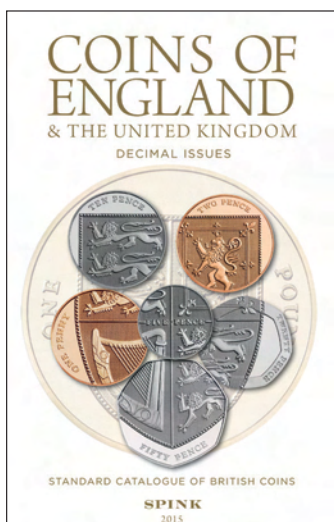


book review

By Peter D. Spencer

Title: *Coins of England and the United Kingdom* (pre-decimal issues), 2015 edition
Edited by: Philip Skingley
Publisher: Spink & Son Ltd.
Format: Hardback, 222mm by 145mm, 536 pages, plus XVI at start
ISBN: 978-1-907427-43-5

Together with a separate 149 page softback book listing all the decimal issues (sets and individual coins) struck during the reign of Elizabeth II, ISBN 978-1-907427-44-2. Both books are profusely illustrated in colour throughout and can be bought for the combined price of £30.



This is the 50th edition of this outstanding reference work, which is known by most numismatists and detectorists as the *Standard Catalogue*. First published by B. A. Seaby Ltd., it has for some years been one of the most popular books in the wide range of works marketed by Spink & Son Ltd. To mark the Golden Anniversary of the *Standard Catalogue* there is a free to enter draw, with a Victorian gold sovereign to be won by the first five names drawn. Those wishing to enter need only fill in the reply card that comes with each copy of the catalogue.

Most detectorists will focus on the pre-decimal catalogue, as that will give information on the majority of their finds. However, over the years our decimal coinage has become ever more large, varied and complex, so the separate 149 catalogue should prove to be very useful for those with an interest in more modern coins. It is not so long since that coins commemorating people, events and other things were rarely struck but over recent years the Royal Mint has produced an enormous number.

Being one of the world's leading numismatic dealers and auctioneers, Spink is in an ideal position to assess trends and movements in the market. The 'Foreword and Market Trends' section mentions that new collectors are still entering the market, especially those based overseas; from the USA and Far East there has been a surge of interest in better quality British coins. Over the last couple of years the price of gold on the international market has dropped. This drop has had an impact on the price of 'bullion coins', such as common date and type sovereigns and half-sovereigns. However, the market for early milled

and hammered gold is still strong and prices for both series have risen. Having said this, it is coins in the top grades that have registered the most significant increase in price – with five guinea pieces in EF condition up by over 40% in one year,

In the hammered series prices have risen but only slightly; milled silver has been stronger, with coins in the top grades rising by almost 15%. The catalogue prices for hammered silver in Fine condition have remained much the same but some lower grade milled coins have fallen in price, reflecting a lack of demand in the market. It is also worth mentioning that really low grade coins of both series can struggle to find a buyer, even when catalogue prices are heavily discounted. The main reason for this is the ever-increasing supply of low grade material through metal-detecting finds.

The huge number of illustrations will be invaluable for identifying English coins of all series, together with the Ancient British and Roman coins often found by detectorists. Anyone who can only afford one reference work should ensure that the *Standard Catalogue* is the one they buy, for it is second to none.

The publication of an updated edition of *Coins of Scotland, Ireland and the Islands* is scheduled for later this year. This will have colour images throughout and will include a completely new section on Anglo-Gallic coins. The last edition was published in 2003 and since then a number of new types and varieties have been discovered; these will be included in the new edition, together with updated prices for all the coins in the series covered.

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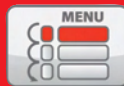
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identification & valuation desk

A monthly identification and valuation guide for the detectorist, numismatist and archaeologist



Address: The postal address for the Identification and Valuation Desk is given below. This address is **ONLY** for this section of *The Searcher*. Please **DO NOT** send in the finds themselves. or email: coinidman@yahoo.co.uk

Finder's address: Please include a contact address (preferably postal) when sending in inquiries. We may need more information about a find so it is important to include an address where we can contact you. Names and addresses are **NEVER** passed on to any third party.

Illustrations: In order to provide accurate identifications and valuations we need good quality photographs, scans or drawings to work from. Images of finds should be posted to us, as we **DO NOT** undertake the task of printing out images from computer screens. It is a simple matter to take a printout to a book in one of the many libraries we use for research purposes, but it is not always possible to do the same with an image on a computer screen.

Dimensions/metal: When sending in images of finds please provide details of size and whatever metal things are made of (if known). Some Roman coins utilise the same legends and design for different denominations, so size can be important.

Speed of inclusion: Much depends on how many other finds are waiting to be featured in the Identification and Valuation Desk. Sometimes items appear very quickly but if there is a backlog it may take a little longer. If you require a speedy response then say so and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible (sometimes by return of post).

Treasure Act: For those not familiar with the Act we will give help and advice about what needs reporting and how it needs to be reported. Finds classed as treasure will only be published if they have been through or are going through the necessary procedure.

Identification & Valuation Desk, PO Box 197, Leeds LS18 5WQ or Email: coinidman@yahoo.co.uk

The three finds illustrated on this page were located by Alan Tansey of Aberystwyth. The first two are gold coins. One was found on a beach and the other was unearthed from pasture only a couple of weeks later; the final find is a gold ring. There are many detectorists who have been searching for several years but have yet to find a single gold coin. Some have been more fortunate and have one or more to their name. However, Mr Tansey has been exceptionally lucky to find two gold coins only a couple of weeks apart. As if that wasn't enough, the coins were swiftly followed by a gold finger ring.



Coin number one is a Victorian shield-back sovereign, which is dated 1872 on the obverse. Below the shield on the reverse is a tiny figure 3, which is an early number placed there to check the lifespan of a die. The coin looks to be in VF condition but its overall appearance is slightly marred by faint surface scratches and nicks on the obverse.

However, it is still a coin that any detectorist would be absolutely delighted to locate.

The second coin is also Victorian but it is a half rather than a full sovereign. It's dated 1849 on the obverse and on the reverse is a crowned shield of arms. The obverse has a die flaw running through the D of DEI but is otherwise in VF condition. The lions on the reverse are slightly weak, as is the Irish harp, but everything else is reasonably sharp and clear. On half sovereigns a shield appeared on the reverse of coins with the



jubilee head (1887-93); by that time all sovereigns had St. George and the dragon on the reverse. The first jubilee head sixpences issued in 1887 also had a shield on the reverse and this led to them being gilded by unscrupulous individuals and passed as half sovereigns. This caused such an outcry that the shield type 1887 sixpences were withdrawn but not before a great number had entered circulation and many people had been duped.

The last illustration is of the gold finger ring, showing it resting in rough material on



a beach. It won't have much age to it and would be most likely to be 9 carat. However, just to emphasize how lucky Mr Tansey is, the ring is actually 22 carat gold. We were told that not long after finding this ring he located yet another! The odds might be stacked against you but keep searching and you, too, might enjoy a run of similar luck.

Next month: The coins will include Anglo-Saxon and Norman pennies, a Continental sterling, a Henry VI gold noble and a Charles II guinea. Amongst the artefacts will be an attractive La Tene brooch, an unusual finger ring, a silver ring brooch and a medieval harness pendant. Miss the next issue of *The Searcher* and you won't see these and lots of other interesting detecting finds.

ANCIENT BRITISH + ANGLO-SAXON.

The images of these two coins were sent in by John Crouch of Hampshire. Both were found on the same day but the second coin was unearthed by Clive Wedge. John thinks his coin is a Celtic gold stater of the Durotriges but said that our opinion and valuation would be greatly appreciated. We should point out that Chris Rudd and Liz



Cottam have argued that this and similar coins should be classed as Ancient British rather than Celtic. The obverse features a highly stylised head of Apollo. On the reverse is a horse facing left, with a crudely formed crab-like creature below. The type is listed in *Ancient British Coins* (published by Chris Rudd) under the Belgae as number 746; in the *Standard Catalogue* it is listed as a British B, chute type, (number 22, under Early Uninscribed Coinage). We'd grade the stater as VF and price it at **£360-400**. Coin number two is a penny of Baldred, King of Kent, circa 823-25 AD. Mr Wedge already knows what it is but he and Mr Crouch were unsure about the moneyer. This penny is one



of the types without a portrait (*Standard Catalogue* number 880). On the obverse the legend reads +BELDRED REX CANT around a cross pattee within a wire-line inner circle. The reverse has a cross crosslet within a wire-line inner circle, which is surrounded by +DI OR MO DM; the moneyer is therefore Diormod and the mint will be Canterbury. The moneyer is known for the reign but we have not traced this variety (no portrait, cross pattee on obverse and cross crosslet on the reverse). Therefore, this is an excessively rare coin. A small piece is missing from the edge which is slightly bent in one area; apart from the flaws mentioned, the coin looks as if it might grade about VF. However, we'd have to see the actual coin in order to place upon it a really accurate grade of preservation. Our price range, based upon the images we received, would be **£1,500-1,800**. This might not seem much for such a rare coin but today collectors are keener on condition than on rarity. We warned against any attempt to straighten the coin, as early Saxon pennies are often rather brittle when they come out of the soil and can break very easily.

MEDIEVAL + TUDOR. These two finds are from a small batch sent in by Andy Gee of Lancashire. The single photograph we received of the first item showed that it

measures about 55mm long and is made of copper-alloy. It tapers down from a squared-off end to one that is narrow and rounded; the top is decorated with a deeply incised geometric pattern and we assume that the



underside is plain. It looks as if it could be a circa 14th century strap end but if it is then we can't see any rivet holes. Find number two is a silver halfpenny (shown enlarged), which isn't much to look at but it is an important rarity. It was struck during the first coinage of Henry VIII and started its life in the ecclesiastical mint at York.



On the obverse there is a key below the bust, which is the symbol of St. Peter of York. This coin was struck under the authority of Thomas Wolsey (as Archbishop of York). It bears mint mark star on the obverse only. This is an extremely rare halfpenny, of a type that wasn't discovered until the 1990s. In March of 2001 the massive collection of Tudor silver coins formed by the late Roger Alan Shuttlewood was sold at auction by Spink. The collection was almost complete in denominations, types and varieties but did not include an example of this coin. In the *Standard Catalogue* it is listed as number 2335A and priced at £80 in Fine condition. The price is low for such a great rarity but underlines the fact that today there is not a great deal of demand for the lower denominations of hammered silver. The coin is oval in shape and weak in places but it could still be described as being Fine for the issue. It could sell for as little as **£70-80** but if two keen collectors got into a bidding battle it might realise a good deal more.

ANGLO-SAXON. Without the damage to its edge this Anglo-Saxon penny would have been a really attractive coin. The obverse would grade good VF and the reverse is nearly as good but the two edge chips



certainly reduce its 'eye appeal'. The coin was found by Danny Fielding; if the damage is recent then it's a great pity he didn't locate it sooner. It's a facing bust/small cross type

penny of Edward the Confessor. On the reverse the legend reads +GARFIN ON LINCO, so Garfin is the moneyer and Lincoln the mint. The type/mint/moneyer combination isn't particularly rare but it is always a bonus when all three can be pinned down. If the edge hadn't been damaged we'd have priced the coin at £320-350. Unfortunately, the chips will have a significant impact on its possible value. In its present condition our best price estimate would be **£90-120**.

ROMAN. This find was sent in by John Collar of Devon. It's a single coin from a hoard discovered in 2013; the hoard was reported but must have been disclaimed, as Mr Collar told us that coins found during subsequent visits to the find site are not being classed as Treasure. He said that the FLO has some of the coins but he is greatly puzzled by this one (see the illustrations). The coin is a billon (very base silver) antoninianus of Maximian. This emperor used to be listed as Maximianus but in



reference works he is now usually known as Maximian. This coin was struck during his first reign, which commenced in AD 286 and lasted until AD 305. On the obverse is the radiate and cuirassed bust of the emperor and a legend reading IMP MAXIMIANVS P AVG. There is a lion walking left (with a thunderbolt in its jaws) on the reverse, with an unclear officina letter below; the legend on this side reads P M TR P VIII COS III P P. In volume IV of David Sear's *Roman Coins and Their Values* this type is listed as number 13162 and the mint is given as Lugdunum. The reverse is a revival of a type first used during the reign of Caracalla. Maximian's head is slightly weak but the coin is otherwise in quite good condition.

MEDIEVAL. This very unusual find was unearthed in North Yorkshire by David Graham. It's a hollow piece of lead, which had an opening pinched tightly shut when found. The coin beside it is a decimal 10 pence piece, which provides an indication of the size. When it surfaced Mr Graham was



intrigued by it, for when it was shaken something rattled about inside. As a piece of lead of indeterminate age, use and identity Mr Graham decided that no harm could be done by prising it open. The contents causing the rattle proved to be three small stones, which are pictured beside the original container. Some late medieval lead balls that were fired from fairly primitive cannons have stones inside but the balls are round whereas this find wasn't when it was found; and, the stones in cannon balls are held tight, as they were placed into a mould before



molten lead was poured in. Mr Graham has come up with a suggestion that sounds plausible: he thinks the find could have religious significance, in that someone placed the three stones into a lead receptacle, pinched shut the opening and then buried it in the soil. The stones were meant to represent the Trinity, in the form of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We think Mr Graham might be correct and that his find could be circa 15th century in date. At this time it was fairly commonplace to bury pilgrims' ampullae in the soil. Deeply religious people (the majority in the 15th century) believed this could protect crops and lead to a good harvest. That this find was buried with similar thoughts in mind does sound like a distinct possibility but, of course, we will never know for certain.



ROMAN. Brian Sterry sent in this coin but the images are rather blurred. Mr Sterry asked us to identify his find, which he thought might be interesting. This coin is a Roman denarius, of the legionary type struck for Mark Antony. On the obverse is a galley and on the reverse a legionary eagle between



two standards; to the right of one of the standards is XI for the 11th legion. Some legionary denarii are quite scarce; for example: XII ANTOVAE, XVII CLASSICAE and XVIII LYBICAE.

However, the coin found by Mr Sterry isn't one of the scarce issues. Grading is difficult with only blurred images to work from but this denarius looks to be worn and only in Fair condition. On the plus side, anyone interested in history in general should have heard of Mark Antony – the man who was a close associate of Julius Caesar and whose life drew to a close when Antony and the Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra, committed suicide in 30 BC.

TUDOR. Over the years lots of heraldic pendants dating from the medieval period have been found by detectorists. From later centuries a huge number of livery buttons have been unearthed, most of which are 19th century in date. Therefore, it is strange that livery badges seem to be quite rare. Pictured here is one made of copper-alloy, which was found by Anthony Button of Lincolnshire.



Mr Button reported it with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and it was said to be similar to the badge of Stanley, Earl of Derby. It is in the shape of the talon of a bird of prey, possibly an eagle, surmounted by three strands. The badge is very well executed, gilded all over, and has an attachment loop on the back. Lord Stanley and his brother, Sir William, both had bodies of men present at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. They were there to support the cause of Richard III but held their men back; the Earl of Northumberland did the same. At the moment he led a charge against Henry Tudor, King Richard was surrounded and cut down by men loyal to the Stanley's, who had decided to throw their support in favour of the man who had only recently landed in Wales. As could be expected, Lord Stanley was rewarded by Henry for his vital

assistance at Bosworth. He was made Earl of Derby and received other posts in the government of England. Prior to Bosworth he had prospered under Edward IV and Richard III. However, in 1472 or 73 he had married Margaret Beaufort, who was the mother of Henry Tudor. Therefore, Richard might have been better off to have been suspicious of this fact and should not have relied on the support of the Stanley brothers at the Battle of Bosworth Field. The badge found by Mr Button is both attractive and in really good condition. It does not necessarily date from the time of the first Earl of Derby but could nevertheless date from the Tudor period. All in all, it is quite an outstanding find.

ANCIENT BRITISH + PERIOD? The two finds featured here were unearthed by Sam Cotton of Cheshire. The first is an Ancient British gold stater, which has on the obverse only vestiges of the highly stylised head found on coins of this type. On the reverse is a disjointed horse facing left and directly above is a diamond shape containing four



pellets; the symbol below the horse is indistinct. This stater is an example of the 'Kite type' and was struck by the Corieltauvi. In the *Standard Catalogue* it is listed as number 392 and in *Ancient British Coins* as number 1761. It's weak in places but still a decent specimen of a very scarce type. Find number two is an oval gold brooch or mount, which measures only about 20mm at its widest point. The photograph of the front is not altogether clear but it has what looks like a cameo in the centre, which is surrounded by a fancy border. The border



will originally have been enamelled in two colours but very little of it is still intact. On the back are two tiny hollow tubes, which will have held (by a pin?) this brooch or mount in place. There is nothing about the general style of this find that would allow us to pin it down to a specific period. However,

it does look to have some age to it and we think it could date from the 17th century. We therefore advised Mr Cotton to report this find under the Treasure Act.

NORMAN. Cut coins dating from the Norman period are still quite scarce and the example featured here is a particularly nice example. It's a class XIII cut halfpenny of Henry I, which was found by Raymond Hall. On the obverse is a left-facing bust of the king and on the reverse part of a lozenge fleury with a trio of annulets in the angles. Most of the detail shows up well but we can see only the first four letters of the moneyer's name: AILM; the letter that follows on could be an E, which would mean the full name is likely to be AILMER. This moneyer is known at only one mint: Chester. Though we can't



be 100% certain, the moneyer is most probably Ailmer and the mint Chester. This would make Mr Hall's cut halfpenny an extreme rarity, for we haven't traced another specimen of this moneyer and mint combination. If this was a whole penny then our price estimate would be £1,200-1,500. However, cut halfpennies are worth a great deal less than pennies, so our estimate on this coin would be no higher than **£200-300**.

ANCIENT BRITISH + 17th/18th CENTURY.

The finder of these two items, Mr P. A. Pynigar of Hampshire, said he would be reporting them to his local FLO. The first is a southern region Ancient British silver unit. It was struck by the Atrebatas and Regni, with the full name of Tincomarus on the obverse. This is an example of the 'Tincomarus Diadem' type. On the obverse is a diademed head with TINCOMARVS around it (only the bottom half of a couple of letters shows up). On the reverse is a horse facing left, with a lyre above it. In the *Standard Catalogue* the type is listed as number 90 and in *Ancient British Coins* it



is number 1100. What remains of this rare coin is in VF condition but it is very badly chipped. Had the coin been intact we'd have said £200+ but in its present state of preservation we would price it no higher than **£65**. Find number two is a gold finger ring, with a posy engraved on the interior that reads: *Let this present my good intent*. The internal diameter measures 15mm. Rings like this sometimes have a maker's

mark and this is a great help in regard to dating. With no mark this ring could be anything from the late 17th to the middle of the 18th century. In terms of value, this depends on a number of points: the presence or lack of hallmarks, size, weight, decoration and (most important of all) the state of



preservation. This ring has a pleasant and well engraved posy, the engraving around the exterior is well executed and it looks to be in very good condition. With an internal diameter of 15mm it is quite small and we suspect it will be light in weight. Prior to Mr Pynigar's inquiry a couple of posy rings had recently been sold at auction, both of which were decorated around the exterior; one (internal diameter of 14.55, 0.79 grams, said to be in Fine condition) realised £400 and the other (internal diameter of 15.28, 1.68 grams, very fine condition) realised £900. Both rings were stated to be 18th century in date. Note that the larger and heavier ring sold for over twice the figure the other one achieved. The exterior decoration on the ring found by Mr Pynigar is more attractive than the two examples cited. However, how much it might be worth is dependant on its weight, which we are unsure of.

When sending in images of coins and artefacts please let us have the sizes. In the case of coins, different denominations sometimes share the same design, so the actual size is an important factor in regard to both identification and valuation. Additionally, let us know the metal, as in photographic images it is often far from obvious what a coin or artefact is made of.

MEDIEVAL + 18th CENTURY. Colin Pearson of Wolverhampton has identified the first of these two coins as a Durham penny of Henry IV but he wants to know if we agree. The coin is clipped, chipped and cracked but OLM shows up in one quarter of the reverse, so this is definitely a Durham



penny. On the obverse there is a slipped trefoil (a trefoil with a stalk) on the king's breast and the head and shoulders are distinctly those of Henry IV, so we agree with Colin's ID. It looks very much like the coin illustrated by Lord Stewartby (in *English Coins 1180-1551*) on plate 21 as number 387. Colin said he now needs only Edward V, Richard III and Edward VI to complete his collection of pennies. Coin number two is a fourpence piece of Anne, which is dated 1708 on the reverse. Small silver coins of Charles II to George II aren't

particularly scarce but they are certainly rare as detecting finds, so Colin has been lucky to locate this specimen. Lots of them were



struck but their scarcity as detecting finds seems to indicate they didn't circulate to any great extent.

ROMAN. Today Roman brooches of the dolphin type are quite common, the main reason being that detectorists have unearthed thousands of examples over the last four decades. We have seen a very large number but most are not in good condition and a high percentage have parts missing. The brooch illustrated here is an exception, as it is in really good condition. Indeed, it is the best of its type ever sent in to the ID & V Desk. It was found by a detectorist who signed himself as 'Davidloves'. It measures



about 70mm long, the shoulders at the spring end are decorated with raised ribs, the bow has incised lines and feathering along its length, the catchplate is pierced with round holes and the upward curve at its base looks to be decorated with a geometric pattern. As if that is not enough, the fastening pin is still intact. The bronze fabric is nicely patinated and has only a few minute spots of corrosion. Overall, the condition is so outstanding that this brooch would not look out of place in the British Museum. It will date from the 1st century AD and is similar to some of the brooches illustrated on page 298 in *A Visual Catalogue of Richard Hattatt's Ancient Brooches*; it is also similar to some of the Polden Hill types (dolphin variants) on page 300. However, none of the examples illustrated by Hattatt match exactly the brooch pictured here. This, though, is not particularly unusual, as there were many makers, the end result of which is many different varieties of the same types.



TUDOR. The coin pictured here was unearthed by Tyndall Jones, who is based in West Sussex. It's a silver penny measuring roughly 14mm in diameter but is shown nearly double its actual size to highlight the detail. The reverse legend reads CIVI TAS LON DON. On the obverse the legend reads H D G ROSA SINE SPI (the last part is sometimes extended to SPINA) and this is the standard reading on pennies bearing the old head of Henry VIII. However, the coin could have been struck during the third coinage of Henry VIII or during the



posthumous coinage struck when his son, Edward VI, came to the throne. So, to which reign does it belong? This penny has lozenge-shaped stops in the obverse legend and this type of punctuation was used only during the posthumous coinage struck under Edward VI. Therefore, the coin is an example of *Standard Catalogue* number 2417 with no mint mark on either side. Pennies with no mint mark and a reverse legend reading CIVI TAS LON DON are normally attributed to the Tower mint. However, coins struck at Southwark bear the same legend on the reverse and it has been suggested that pennies with no mint mark might also have been struck there. The coin is a bit flat in places but we've seen pennies of this type in far worse condition.

NORMAN. Pennies dating from the Norman period are amongst the rarest of finds that turn up in England. Many detectorists are still waiting for their first glimpse of one and have to make do with illustrations of these elusive coins. The example pictured here was sent in the day after it was found by



Colin Barton. It's a two stars type penny of the first Norman king: William I. Mr Barton had difficulty in translating the legend on the reverse, so he asked for our help. The lettering is weak or flat in places on both

sides; and, at this time the letters themselves can be crude and hard to interpret. This isn't always the case but some of the die makers were certainly better than others at the job. The end of the legend appears to read NDNE, so the mint is probably London. The start of the legend is by no means clear but it looks like PIIDPI; the Ps are Ws, the II will be a V (used as a letter U), and what looks like a D is probably a letter L. With this reading the moneyer could be WVLWI, which is an abbreviated form of WVLFWINE. However, this should be taken to be a possibility rather than a certainty. Interpreting legends on some Norman pennies can be very frustrating, for at the end of the day it is sometimes only possible to offer suggestions as to what a reading might be.

MEDIEVAL. Dave Langman is based in Essex, which is the county that gave up this find. It's a copper-alloy harness pendant, about which we were asked to provide more information. The pendant is in the shape of a quatrefoil and its date of manufacture is most likely to be some time in the 14th century. There are vestiges of enamel on the face but the detail is too faint to interpret.



These things often bear the arms of a person or family but it is not unusual for the enamel work to be purely decorative rather than heraldic. This pendant is intact and has its suspension mount at the top but, as is often the case, most of the enamel has been eaten away whilst it was in the soil. We told Mr Langman that it might be worth showing this find to his local Finds Liaison Officer, as the detail might show up better on the pendant itself than it does on a photograph.

MEDIEVAL. The coin pictured here was sent in by a detectorist signing himself as Jason. It's a Henry III voided long cross penny, which is an example of class IIIab. In the 2014 edition of Spink's *Standard Catalogue* the information on later Henry III pennies has been expanded and now includes illustrations and descriptions of a number of new sub-types. On the reverse of this coin the legend reads TOM ASO NNO Rha, so

the moneyer in Tomas and the mint Northampton. The mint couldn't be said to be rare but it is certainly a good deal scarcer than London and Canterbury. The coin is



well struck but slightly weak in a couple of places and in its present condition it should be worth around **£70**.

VICTORIAN. Lots of Victorian silver coins are found by detectorists but the majority are shillings, sixpences and threepences. Tom Peirce of Hampshire has been very lucky to unearth a larger coin: a halfcrown dated 1846. It's the first halfcrown of the 1840s that we have seen as a detecting find; a large number went into circulation but people must have taken care of them, as very few have ended up in the soil. However, this



halfcrown isn't a particularly scarce coin in itself. The obverse looks to be Fine and the reverse might be slightly better. It doesn't look to have the usual surface flaws seen on most large silver coins that come out of the ground, but Mr Peirce does mention that it has a few scratches. Pricewise, we'd say up to **£50** with no scratches but less if they do show up.

TUDOR. This is an 'eyes only' find, which was sent in by Damon Ward on behalf of a farmer's brother, who spotted it whilst working the land. We'd describe it as a medal with a curious form of mount on its edge. On the obverse, facing left, is a bust wearing mid-16th century costume. Engraved between two wire-line circles on the reverse is RVTILANS ROSA SINE SPINA (*Dazzling Rose Without a Thorn*); within the inner circle is a cross pattee. The image on the obverse is slightly blurred but clear enough to see that this find is in really good condition. The costume and headdress

depicted on the obverse are typical of the 1550s, so we suggested that the bust is likely to be Mary Tudor rather than anyone else. There is a possibility that the medal could



silver but Mr Ward wasn't certain what the metal was. As the metal looked to be silver we told Mr Ward to advise the finder to report the medal under the Treasure Act.

■ The FLO sent photographs to the British Museum, after which the following report was received: "The consensus of opinion is that the Tudor medal is probably an 18th century cast, produced and engraved for the collectors' market. This is based upon Steven van Herwijck's portrait of Elizabeth marchioness of Northampton of 1562 . . . it's an aftercast with the legend removed." The metal was said to look like bronze, so there was no need to report this find.

GEORGIAN + TOKEN. These two finds were unearthed by Glenn Lister of Cheshire. The first is a gold sovereign of George IV, which is dated 1829 below the head of the



king. Glenn said it was a pity about the damage to the edge and portrait but the reverse looks pretty good. The coin looks to be VF in terms of wear but has an edge

scrape (about 7 to 9 o'clock on the obverse) and several 'pin pricks' to the head of the king. Despite the defects, this is a fabulous detecting find, which could still sell for **£380-450**. Find number two is a 17th century halfpenny token. On the obverse is a shield bearing the arms of the Chandlers' Company and this is surrounded by a legend reading JOHN ROOME OF YORKE 68. In the centre of the reverse are the initials I R; in between are three flowers, two of



which have heads rising from an entwined base, and around the edge is a legend reading CHANDLER HIS HALF PENNY. Therefore, this half penny was issued to circulate in York by John Roome, who was a chandler (candle maker) in the city. In the main reference work on 17th century tokens by Michael Dickinson this one is listed as number 430 on page 237. Yorkshire tokens are very popular, not only with collectors in the county but those based elsewhere, too. Glenn's find has a few nicks and flat areas but would still grade good Fine or better. It's a rare token and in good condition for a detecting find, so our price range would be **£60-80**.

ANCIENT BRITISH. This find was unearthed by a detectorist who signed himself just as Terry; he wanted to know if it is Celtic and what it might be worth. It's a toggle fastener, of which there are many different types. Some are set with enamel whilst others (like this one) are bronze with no inlay. They are usually dated to the 1st and 2nd century AD but they might have been in use slightly earlier. They are still often classed as Celtic



but more recently they have been catalogued as Ancient British. Like many early artefacts, these things used to be quite rare but over the last few decades detectorists have unearthed many different types and varieties. The example found by Terry is intact and the bronze surfaces don't appear to be corroded or chipped. Around 20 years since this find would have been worth £100+ but the price today would be lower. However, it is in good condition so we'd estimate its probable value at **£60-80**.

ANGLO-SAXON + ROMAN. Here are two more coins found by the Berkshire-based detecting duo of Mike and John Ruczynski. The first is a rather nice Continental silver sceatta. There is a quilled figure on one side and a 'standard' on the other. This is a variety of series E, variety G. A very large number of sceattas of series E are now on

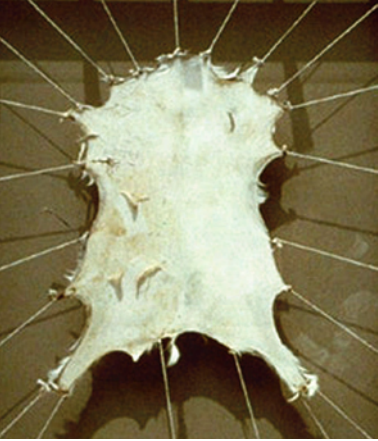


record but we have not traced an exact match for this coin. The reverse has been struck off centre but the coin is otherwise in VF+ condition. As it is in such good condition, we'd give it a price range of **£80-90**. Coin number two is a denarius of the Roman Republic. Mike said it seemed to have CN7 or LND punched into the obverse and he wondered what this meant. On the obverse is a head facing right and on the reverse a figure mounted on a horse. It is not unusual to find bankers' marks on Republican denarii and that would explain why there are incuse letters on the obverse of this coin. This denarius was struck during 56 BC under the authority of L. Marcius Philippus. The head on the obverse is that of King Ancus Marcius, below the head would be ANCVS but this doesn't show up due to the off-set strike. The mounted figure on the



reverse represents the statue of Q. Marcius Rex, who, in 144 BC, was responsible for the construction of the Aqua Marcia (an aqueduct) on which the statue stands; below is AIQVIA MAR. Behind the statue, in a curved line, is PHILIPPVS (the coin needs to be turned 90 degrees anti-clockwise in order to read this). In volume I of David Sear's *Roman Coins and Their Values* this denarius is listed as number 382. Sear mentions that the moneyer (L. Marcius Philippus) was the step-brother of Gaius Octavius, who was seven years old at the time but would later become the Emperor Augustus. The obverse is well off centre and only Fair; the reverse, too, is only Fair and, the edge is chipped in at least one place. This isn't a rare denarius, so in its present state of preservation our best price estimate would be no more than **£12-15**.





Reading: The Evidence

By Brett Hammond

Figure 1: How many early books began. This is the flayed skin of a young goat undergoing transformation to parchment.

All images courtesy of TimeLine Auctions

Whenever a detectorist recovers a fragment of metal identifiable as a mount, strap, clasp, centre plate or corner protector from a vanished book, the find suggests that centuries ago the light of literacy probably first illuminated some part of the parish in which the find turned up.

In fact we have to go back as far as the Ancient Greeks to read the first chapter in the history of books. It began circa 330 BC after the conquest of Egypt by the Greeks who soon learned the secret of making papyrus using bulrushes found growing along the banks of the Nile.

When cut, soaked, pressed and dried, the pith from the rushes provided an excellent writing surface; and when a scribe's ink had dried, these manuscripts could be cut into sheets, sewn together and kept between wooden covers. The Greek name for the plant was biblos, from

which came the English word bible, and the French word bibliothèque (library). For a set of manuscripts held by wooden covers we use the Latin word codex.

The Roman chapters in the history of books date from circa AD 330 by which time the Greeks had long since



Figure 2: This magnificent 13th century Armenian gospel displays all of the book furnishing discussed in this feature, with a few baubles added for appearance sake.



Figure 3: Although not so eye-catching, this lovely old bible shows most of the book furnishing likely to turn up as detector finds. Seeing your mounts, straps, clasps, centre plates and corner protectors in use adds greatly to the significance of the find in your hand. Notice the raised studs on the corner plates and the central mount – all protecting the tooled leather from dirt and damage.



Figure 4: A metal prayer book cover from the 18th-19th century; its spine linked by pin hinges. Imagery includes God in the heavens with Roman soldiers covering below; and the Crucifixion; with busts of saints and apostles around; Greek inscriptions.



Figure 5: A silvered book cover from the 17th-18th century. It has a punched border around a central expanding-arm cross.



Figure 7: A 19th century bronze book mount depicting St Nicholas. Greek text. Height 50mm.



Figure 8: A Gothic revival cast book cover dating from the 19th century. It shows King David playing a harp. Stylistically the piece resembles 13th century ornamental work in Cologne cathedral. Height 17cm.



Figure 6: A Russian silver book mount dating from circa 1800 and depicting the Calvary scene beyond Jerusalem's walls. Cyrillic text above. Height 58mm.

Figure 9: Two 13th century Limoges and Cologne enamelled mounts. The Limoges piece depicts a nimbate saint with a raised book in his right hand. Note that the artist has included the book's strap fitting. The Cologne piece has a geometric design in blue, white and gold. Much enamel remains on both. Heights 58mm and 32mm.



capitulated to Roman might; Egypt had been absorbed into the Roman Empire; and the emperor Constantine the Great had embraced Christianity. He commissioned 50 scripture codices for distribution to Christian churches in Constantinople. Subsequent emperors did likewise in other parts of the empire; but supplies of papyrus were severely interrupted in the 4th and 5th centuries by turmoil in and around Egypt. In consequence a substitute – parchment – made from the skins of sheep and goats, came into widespread use.

Translating and copying into many languages across what had become Christendom resulted in a confusing variety of texts. To resolve that problem the Pope commissioned a widely respected scholar, Jerome, to make a definitive translation into the Latin used by many educated speakers at that time. The result – the Vulgate Codex – completed in the year 405, became the standard text for the next one thousand years.

The task of transmitting it to churches great and small was a major undertaking for hundreds of early medieval monasteries

across Europe. Monks possessing a variety of talents were required to complete a single bible. Those skilled in raising goats flayed skins that others, trained in using scrapers and chemicals, transformed into parchment. Scribes and painters applied their gifts to turning a blank parchment into a beautiful example of calligraphic and illuminated art.

Initially the sewn parchments were simply placed in neat wooden boxes to be lifted out for reading. Fixed back and front boards into which parchments were sewn offered better protection. Cut slightly larger than the pages, their oak edges shielded the manuscripts against wear and tear. The boards also presented further embellishment opportunities to leather workers, smiths and jewellers. Bibles could be luxuriously covered in velvet, embossed leather, or even gold, silver, jewels and ivory when made for a cathedral or the private chapel of a monarch or prince; or given a covering of plain cloth for a bible used in an impoverished parish church.

A pair of metal clasps in gold, silver or silver-gilt held expensive bibles tightly closed

when not in use to guard against absorption of moisture. Cheaper versions had a strap with one end fastened to the forward edge of the upper board, while the other end, which had a metal-rimmed hole, went round the lower board's forward edge and attached to a metal pin riveted in the centre of the lower board.

In England bibles held firmly closed by two straps rather than one found some favour during the 12th-14th century, but thereafter clasps and catches attached to the forward edges of both boards became more popular, with a leather clasp having a metal hook to fit the catch. Later clasps developed into metal hinges as thick as the bible they protected.

The position of a book's clasp often identified its country of origin. French and English binders placed clasps on the upper cover and catches on the lower. In Germany and the Netherlands catches occupied the upper cover.

In the 1450s Johann Gutenberg's remarkable moveable type machine in Mainz, Germany caused a revolution in



Figure 10: Two Byzantine 8th century silver repoussé bible plates; the smaller showing a cross with doves above; the larger depicting Christ and an angel. Heights 63mm and 60mm.



Figure 11: A group of three Russian silver gospel mounts, each with a robed figure of an evangelist holding a scroll, and in an attitude of adoration. Height 90 mm.



Figure 14: A Carolingian 9th century book mount with silver-gilt floral motifs and a niello border. Height 22mm. Found Dragonby, Lincolnshire.



Figure 12: Silver-gilt 15th century book mount depicting the Madonna and child. Height 25mm. Found by a British detectorist.

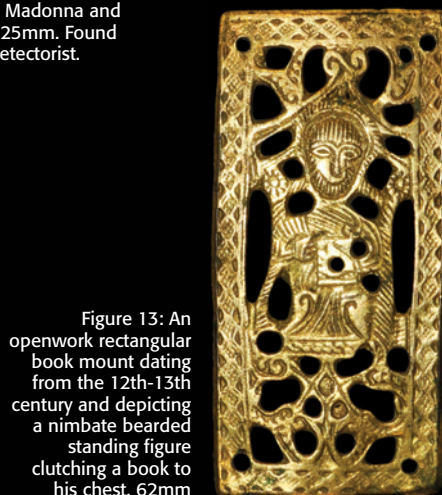


Figure 13: An openwork rectangular book mount dating from the 12th-13th century and depicting a nimbed bearded standing figure clutching a book to his chest. 62mm



Figure 15: A bronze beast-head book clasp dating from the 11th-12th century. Found Fakenham, Norfolk.



Figure 16: This 16th century cast bronze mount takes the form of an armoured and cloaked knight, hands raised in prayer, his sword at his left hip. Height 51mm. Found Cambridgeshire.

book publishing and in literacy when his printing works created almost 200 bibles, complete with hand illuminating, binding and fitting of all furnishings, in one year. A monastery scriptorium took the same amount of time to complete a single copy.

Gutenberg and his imitators could soon offer a wide range of books, including bibles, herbals, bestiaries, almanacs and scientific works, to university students, country squires and better-off merchants. It has been estimated that by the time James the First's Bible was published in 1611 all members of the English landed gentry and merchant classes, as well as half of all yeoman farmers, could read the bibles every one of them owned. That was a powerful transformation from the year 1229 when a Church edict ruled that none but a priest could own and read a bible.

Returning briefly to earlier centuries and the various metal furniture applied to boards, the corner pieces seen on most bibles obviously protected the boards when

accidental knocks occurred. Raised studs or nodules seen on some corner pieces also kept the boards safe from contact with dirty or abrasive surfaces.

It might seem somewhat surprising that mounts, straps, clasps, centre plates and corner protectors from bibles and other books turn up as finds in open fields. They can be accounted for as:

- accidental losses by monks from adjacent monastic buildings (visible or conjectured).
- non-precious metal pieces discarded when a decorated bible was stripped of any precious metals or gems following a Viking attack on a monastic building.
- parts of scattered hoards buried as silver or gold bullion.
- scrap or waste metal resulting from destruction of a monastic building during Henry VIII's reign.
- parts of a bible (or other book) interred during a burial that was subsequently disturbed and scattered as a result of ploughing.

- unnoticed when carried to the field in urban waste spread on the soil as fertiliser.
- lost in recent times. A 19th and early 20th century revival in the use of metal clasps, mounts and board frames on diaries, address books, small prayer books and other pocket books that might have been carried into the countryside and accidentally dropped.

Where might you improve your chances of similar finds? Certainly on any sites suggested by the above list. Missing from it are the tidal Thames foreshores from which many examples have been recovered. The accompanying illustrations show a wide variety of mounts, straps, clasps, centre plates and corner protectors. Some are detectorists' finds; a number were found unrecognised at boot fairs and similar venues; others were inherited ... and almost all eventually became lots sold in recent TimeLine Auctions. Study them and improve your skills at recognising them.



Figure 17: A cast concave mount in the form of a lion couchant gardant with tail looped around its loins. It dates from the 13th-15th century. Length 32mm. Found in the Cotswolds.



Figure 18: This D-shaped gilt-bronze book mount dates from the 14th-15th century and has a zoomorphic design depicting an advancing beast with extended tongue and hatched detailing to the neck, body and legs. 18mm. Found near Fakenham, Norfolk.



Figure 19: A cast silver book mount in the form of an advancing griffin with right foreleg extended; the wing spread above its back; attachment holes in the eye, foreleg and rear foot. It dates from the 10th - 12th century. Height 51mm.



Figure 20: This 13th-15th century bronze book mount depicts Mary Magdalene with nimbus and loose robe modelled in high relief; hands extended in prayer. Height 44mm.



Figure 21: A Norman 12th century gold book mount depicting a fleur de lis. Height 14mm.



Figure 22: An 18th century silver-gilt gospel book mount with a Calvary scene. Beneath is a skull-and-crossbones motif. Height 15cm.



Figure 23: A silver-gilt triangular book corner mount with floral and leaf designs. One of three hallmarks on rear is dated 1784. Height 98mm.



Figure 24: An openwork book mount with a mitred image of St Nicholas facing. 11th-13th century. Height 67mm.

Figure 26: This 13th-15th century cast bronze figural mount depicts an advancing female with loose robe and headdress. Her right hand is poised to remove something from the scrip at her right thigh. A rare depiction of a medieval purse. Height 51mm.



Figure 25: Two bronze book clasps dating from the 14th-15th century. One has Gothic text. Lengths 79mm and 66mm.

Figure 27: A bronze 14th century book mount depicting the foreparts of a winged lion with mouth open to reveal the teeth. The winged lion is the emblem of St. Mark, and of the city of Venice. Height including stand is 57mm.



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Focus: Detecting Early Roman Britain



By Mike Sinclair

Image courtesy of Mikael Lander

The advent of Rome, as far as the native British were concerned, was a gradual process punctuated by violent episodes. By the Bronze Age, Britain had established trading links with the Mediterranean world and western European art and culture had absorbed many traditions from the east, with Greek and Etruscan imports influencing native style. In the late Iron Age, many southern tribes in Britain enjoyed a good level of living by the standards of the times and by the second century BCE were importing goods from a newly emergent Mediterranean power, Rome.

Rome began its progress from a localised Italian tribe to a major power in the 6th century BCE, absorbing first the neighbouring Etruscans and then spreading down the Italian peninsula to conquer the Greek colonies in the south. There then followed the Punic Wars with Carthage in the 3rd century, which saw Roman expansion outside of

Italy. The Second Punic War and the defeat of Hannibal left Rome with a colony in Spain and control of much of the western Mediterranean. Greece and its empire were next to fall in campaigns of the following century and with further expansions, by 100 BCE, Rome held sway over southern Gaul, the eastern Adriatic coast and parts of what is now Turkey.

The Romans went from being traders to a deadly enemy of the British in the 1st century BCE, when they launched attacks on neighbouring Gaulish and Germanic tribes. Northern Gaul and Britain had close political ties and in 55 BCE Roman forces raided Britain to be followed the next year by what was probably an attempt at invasion and



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

occupation. This failed, but changed the relationship between the southern British tribes and Rome for ever. It would seem different British tribes took advantage of alliances and factions that had developed as a result of the Roman incursion, with some being pro-Roman and using Rome as a pawn in inter-tribal rivalries. A century later, some of these bargaining chips would be called in when the Romans returned, this time to stay.

In the 1st century CE, although south-eastern Britain was by now familiar to Rome, the further reaches of the island were still seen as a rather mysterious place and any emperor who successfully annexed this land would gain much political kudos.

This was something that appealed to the emperor Claudius and, in 43CE, Roman forces attacked Britain in a seaborne assault, probably in collusion with some British and Gaulish tribes.

The political situation at the time is not completely clear but a large part of southern Britain was under the rule of a paramount king, Cunobelinus, who probably died around the time of the invasion – indeed, his death may have been the opportunity that the Romans were waiting for. Resistance to the invasion appears to have been slow in coming and not well organised, further suggesting an opposing force caught off its guard.

Some uncertainty exists as to who exactly did oppose the Roman forces; our main literary source is a medieval Greek copy of the works of a Roman historian who wrote more than a century after the invasion, but the sons of Cunobelinus, one of whom was almost certainly called Caratacos, seem to have formed the main opposition. Another, named as Togodumnos (possibly incorrectly), might be connected to a rare quarter-stater

inscribed CVNO/DVBN and a third unnamed is said to have been captured with Caratacos and so was clearly present throughout the campaign. Caratacos was probably Cunobelinus' successor and was clearly a paramount chief.

Silver coins inscribed 'CARA' are known from southern Britain and may relate to him, but equally could be another relative so named or perhaps a different abbreviated name entirely. No gold coins are known of Caratacos but then we do not know what the criteria for their issue was. Roman rulers issued coins immediately on accession to announce themselves but maybe British kings had different priorities.

After some initial setbacks the Roman forces succeeded in taking the capital of Cunobelinus, presumed to have been near modern Colchester and the local tribes ceased hostilities. Caratacos retreated west where he continued to lead opposition to Rome for nearly another decade. This alone demonstrates that he was a paramount chief able to demand the loyalty of other tribes.

One, named as the Bodunni by the historian Cassius Dio, are described as being subject to a tribe of the Catuellani, the Catuellani being presumed to be the tribe of Cunobelinus and staters found in the west of Britain bear a similar 'ear of barley' motif to those of Cunobelinus, perhaps denoting some kind of clan or tribal obligation.

When Charles Stuart landed at Glenfinnan in 1745 he was able to recruit clansmen who felt obligated to follow him as their paramount chief, even though many had little desire to do so. My own family took a pragmatic approach and fought on both sides! Maybe Charles' ability to demand loyalty reflected a long tradition of clan obligation that stretched back to

the times of Caratacos. Whatever the reason such loyalty ended for him when a north British ruler, Queen Cartumandua, betrayed him and surrendered him to the Romans.

But what of archaeological evidenced for the Roman invasion and early years of the occupation. Are there any specific detector finds that can be identified as being related? The short answer is no, there are no artefacts littering the beaches or landing grounds, unlike the debris from more recent conflicts. But what we can recognise are finds that either immediately pre-date the invasion, or may be associated with the first few decades of Roman occupation.

Rarest of all are finds of 1st century CE Roman military equipment, but just occasionally items do turn up, such as this mount (Fig. 1), thought to be from a horse harness set. Made from copper-alloy with a silvered surface, it has one attachment bar in place plus various loops for other straps and fittings. It most probably had a pendant hanging from it. Similar mounts are present in an almost complete harness set of the 1st century CE from Xanten in Germany, which is now in the British Museum.

Other similar mounts are known from early Roman military contexts at Hod Hill. This particular example was a completely isolated find in a landscape containing just occasional Roman period finds, so the circumstances of its loss are beyond speculation, but it can certainly be considered 'high status' and probably belonged to someone of rank in the Roman army.

Although not identifiable as specifically legionary, this small silver stud (Fig. 2) may well be associated with the 20th Legion, the Valeria Victrix, which was part of the invading army in 43CE. Their symbol was a



Figure 7

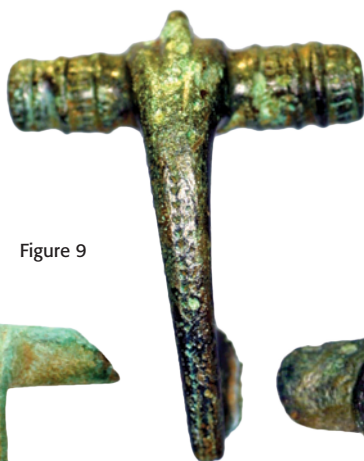


Figure 9



Figure 8



Figure 10



Figure 11

boar and it appears on a number of artefacts, including tiles and stone carvings, which have both the boar and the legionary number upon them. Measuring just 11mm in diameter, the stud is in typical Roman style, the boar framed within inner circles. It was found just 35 kilometres from Colchester, where the legion is known to have been based not long after the invasion and as it was found in association with other Roman finds dating from the 1st century, the legionary connection seems quite plausible.

Specifically 1st century artefacts are few and far between, one exception being brooches, which occur with some frequency. Amongst early examples I have found is (Fig. 3), a plate brooch from around the time of the Conquest and found mainly in the North Thames region.

Far more prolific are 'Colchester' two-piece brooches; these are mainly found in copper-alloy (Fig. 4) but also rarely in iron (Fig. 5). Iron brooches were probably common, but most detectors discriminate them out.

Another fairly common variety of early brooch is the 'Hod Hill' type (Fig. 6) and the 'T-shaped' type (Fig. 7). (Fig. 8) is a small 'T-shaped' variety with enamel inlay and other minor variations. Number (Fig. 9)

is a 'dolphin' type with elaborate wing decoration and even scarcer is (Fig. 10), known as a 'Reverse-fantail' type and (Fig. 11), a 'Sub-keyhole' variety.

Most prolific of all finds of the Conquest period are coins. Many Republican coins were imported into Britain although some certainly pre-date the Conquest and are sometimes found in Iron Age contexts.

The typical legionnaire of 43CE would have had mostly Republican coins in his purse and the following are a selection recovered from the North Thames region and which were circulating at the time of the Conquest.

The earliest coin I have found is also the rarest, being a *quinarius*, or half-*denarius* of Q. Titius, dating from 90 BCE (Fig. 12). *Quinari* are not uncommon finds in other parts of the Roman Empire but rarely occur in Britain. Interestingly, this example was found on a site that has produced a great many Iron Age silver units, which may also have been tariffed at half of a Roman *denarius*, so perhaps this coin fitted in as part of the local economy.

The next coin, a *denarius* of C. Hostidius Geta (Fig. 13), was found just metres from a small group of Iron Age silver units, again raising the question as to who was using it, a Roman or pre-Roman Briton. A little later in

date is this *denarius* of Q. Sicinius (Fig. 14), dating to 49-48BCE, the same date as the next example (Fig. 15), issued by the moneyer C. Vibius. Coins of the so-called Imperial period also occur with regularity, examples here being (Fig. 16) a *denarius* of Julius Caesar and (Fig. 17), a *denarius* of Cassius. Marcus Antonius issued a comprehensive series of *denarii* honouring various legions, in this case the 7th Legion or *Legio Claudia VII*. (Fig. 18)

The 7th fought with Caesar during his invasion of Gaul and possibly took part in the attack on Britain, to which they returned in 43CE as part of the Claudian invasion force.

Pre-Claudian coins of the invasion period occasionally turn up, as with this *denarius* of Tiberius (Fig. 19) and this as of Germanicus (Fig. 20). *Denarii* of Claudius are rare finds, such as this example featuring the bust of Agrippina on the reverse (Fig. 21) but copper-alloy asses, such as (Fig. 22), are more common. This is an official example to show the detail but most found on British sites are crude copies, struck, it I suggested, by the troops themselves to alleviate a shortage of official coinage.

Overall, finds of early Roman Britain are comparatively scarce and thus of particular interest when they do occur.



Figure 7



Figure 7



Figure 7



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22





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A golden field

By Tyndall Jones

I've been detecting in Sussex for 15 years and long ago realised that the people in this area weren't particularly wealthy! Nevertheless, I've found many lovely items over the years and the enjoyment that the hobby brings me is beyond pleasure. I never go out expecting to find anything valuable and if money had been the only factor I would've given up searching years ago. It's the thrill of finding something hundreds of years old that interests me. Like most detectorists I go 'scavenging for history items', as my late friend used to describe my hobby.

I have a particular love of coins and they tend to be my favourite item to unearth, but I'm happy with most of the artefacts that fall to my Sovereign Elite coil. The junk that turns up is one of the crosses one has to bear.

I have a 'wish list' of finds that I would love to discover. This includes a Roman aureus coin, which I often dream about when a field regularly turns up a supply of Roman grots. I also dream of finding a Henry IV or Richard III coin. Naturally any hammered gold coin would be a real bonus ...

The Winter of 2012/2013 seemed endless. The Siberian cold blast just went on and on into April with Spring never seeming to arrive. It was by far the coldest winter since 1963, which I can still remember. Sunday, March 10 dawned grey and cold with the temperature hovering around the freezing mark. I was otherwise engaged in the morning but was able to go detecting after lunch, padded out with hat, gloves and wearing two pairs of trousers.

The farmer had recently acquired extra two fields from his neighbour. They were shaped rather like a rollercoaster with high ends on both sides and a slope down the valley bottom. Unfortunately the valley was orientated East-West so it was like a

wind tunnel and freezing anything in its path - including me! I had detected one side the previous week and found one or two artefacts, Tudor buckles, buttons etcetera, but nothing spectacular.

Over the years I have learned a little about buttons. Needless to say my reference books never seem to show the buttons that I find, so I dropped a line to R.J. Wilkinson-Latham the author via the *Discovering*



Figure 1: Silver-plated officer's button

Military Badges and Buttons, who very kindly promptly replied with a full identification.

What I had was a silver-plated button belonging to the 71st Highland Light Infantry Regiment, and probably of a warrant officer or piper and

could be dated between 1810 and 1830. How it came to be on an isolated field on the South Downs is a mystery to me. If any reader knows of a really comprehensive illustrated military button catalogue I would love to hear of it.

On one of the fields the soil was quite light with base chalk not far from the surface, so digging was no problem. It quickly became obvious that this area must have been a favourite spots for shooters as after about an hour all I had show was about 20 shotgun caps.

It started to snow, but I continued to work my way down the slope, the flurries stinging my face. Time slowly passed with no improvement in the type of finds. By this time I had resigned myself to it not being my day. I was frozen and my back was aching so I decided to call it a day and make my way back to the car.

I had a choice of two fields to traverse with a copse dividing them. Both were ploughed and with a relatively smooth surface. One had occasionally thrown up artefacts over the years whilst the adjoining field I had previously written off as 'dead'. The 'dead' field sloped steeply up a plateau top that seemed devoid of anything, even discarded shotgun cartridges.

I had never detected on the side slope as it was rarely empty of crop but due to the cold winter the farmer had been waiting for warm weather to start drilling. I decided to search there as the trees offered a slight degree of protection from the wind.

I wasn't expecting anything much, but was pleasantly surprised with a decent signal that turned out to be a very worn cartwheel penny of George III. Although not exactly scintillating, it was better than nothing!

A further 50 yards produced a large lump of scrap lead, which must have weighed over a pound. That seemed to be the last signal and with the car in sight and the prospect of defrosting I wasn't paying too much attention when a rather 'iffy' signal came across the headphones. I must admit for a brief millisecond I was tempted to leave it but thankfully I thought better of it and dug.

The first scoop of earth revealed a gold coloured disk emerging from the soil as it crumbled away. My immediate reaction was another bottle top but closer inspection revealed a design and letters. I switched my thought to a foreign brass coin. My hands were so cold that they had lost in a sense



Figure 2: Edward I quarter ryal 1466-7

of weight as I held it. After closer inspection I noticed an E beneath the shield and the EDWA of the obverse legend. Slowly it dawned on me that I might have found my first gold hammered coin after 14 years of detecting. I carefully stored my find and gave the surrounding area a thorough search but no further coins appeared.

I have a fair knowledge of hammered silver coins and am able to recognise the denomination and monarch on most of my finds. Sometimes I need to refer to my books or if stuck, refer to Mr. Peter D Spencer who writes the *ID & Valuation Desk* column for *The Searcher*, but gold

hammered is very limited as never thought I would ever find one.

When I got home I placed it in a solution of warm water laced with Fairy Liquid that loosened the remaining earth in the design and gently brushed with a soft toothbrush. My initial identification was that it was a quarter noble of Edward III but on consulting the Spink catalogue that was soon disproved so I looked into Edward IV and sure enough there was a quarter ryal of his first reign dated June 1466 to 1467.

The ryal was a new coin worth 10 shillings that replaced the gold noble valued at 6s 8d (34p) but didn't really catch on and was discontinued in 1470. Edward IV issued two quarter ryals one with the sun on the right of the shield and a rose on the left whilst the other type the symbols are on the other side. My example had the sun on the left with a rose on the right, which is a slightly less common variety.

Needless to say this made me rethink the potential of this field so over the next few weeks I gave it my undivided attention. Thankfully, due to the cold weather, the field hadn't been drilled. I found that no other finds in the area of the quarter ryal but as I worked along the slope towards the end of the fields, I managed to find five silver pennies.

The first was a Henry III struck around 1250 which was followed further by another



Figure 3: Henry III penny 1250-51



Figure 4: Henry III long cross penny 1250-56

Henry III, this time struck by Nicole at Canterbury.

It then went quiet until I was suddenly aware of a decent signal about 100 yards away from the previous two finds and quite a bit further up the slope. This time it was on Edward I penny that surfaced, dating to around 1300.



Figure 5: Edward I 1300-02

This one was in pretty reasonable condition which is more than can be said for the next one which again was an Edward I probably dating 1305-1307. Again it went quiet until a final penny appeared quite high up the slope. This was an issue of Edward II dating to 1312-1314.



Figure 6: Edward I Canterbury penny 1305-07



Figure 7: Edward II 1312-14

Never again will I write a field off as dead! They say when you wait hours for a bus, usually two will arrive at once. 2013 turned out like that from me with a second gold coin surfacing in September from ... but that's another story!

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clubactivities

Please email your club news and images of finds to: info@thesearcher.co.uk
or send to 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PX

Identifications made in this section are supplied by individual clubs

Lincoln Historical Search Society

Here are the finds from the February meeting:

Coin of the Month

1st Follis of Constantine – Rob Lane



2nd Roman bronze of Gratian – Glenn Tinsley

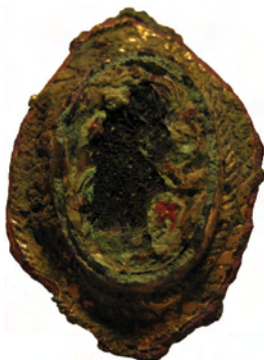


Artefact

1st Lead trade weight – Paul Hickman



2nd Roman brooch – Rob Lane



3rd Tiny silver thistle – Glenn Tinsley
Charlie Atkinson

SHRADS

Club Site Coin

1st Phillip & Mary groat – F Kennedy



2nd Bristol farthing – N Keeler



2nd Commonwealth penny – I Achurch

2nd Roman coin – D Whalley



Club Site Artefact

1st Double loop buckle – N Keeler

2nd Decorative mount – C Goodchild



3rd Silver spoon handle – T Brown



Any Site Find

1st Gloucester token – A Ward



2nd Victorian cricket buckle – D Whalley

3rd William IV groat – S Hurrell
Keith Arnold

Stour Valley Search & Recovery Club

We started the evening with a very interesting talk and slide show from Liz Caldwell of South Somerset Archaeological Research Group, very ably assisted by Dr. Clare Randall, Nigel Harvey and Peter Wright who explained their methods in surveying the field where the gold lunula was found last year.

Best coins of the month

1st George III
18 pence bank
token –
Brian Biddle



2nd Edward VI
penny –
David Eagles

3rd Elizabeth I
threepence
– David Eagles



Best Artefacts of the Month

1st Medieval silver
finger ring –
John Hinchcliffe



2nd Stirling silver
bracelet –
Tony Player



3rd German Cathedral, Berlin religious
medallion – Tony Player
Angela Kernan



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Dunelme MDC

Our February's FOTM was attended by our local FLO Lauren Proctor. Lauren has been an excellent servant for our members recording their finds. She has been involved massively in terms of dealing with our hoard find lately and would like to thank Lauren for her contribution to the club.

We hope the readers like the unusual finds we uncover on very good land.

Find of the Month Competition results:

Artefacts Section:

1st Viking cheek piece – Mick Wright



2nd Celtic terret ring – James Brown



3rd Roman dog brooch – Tom Neesam



Coin Section:

1st Siliqua clipped by the Saxons – James Brown



2nd Siliqua – Roly Harrison

3rd Elizabeth I shilling – Tomo Neesam



Andy Neesam, Secretary

Herts & District MDS

The winning Coin of the Month was a Celtic silver unit entered by Steve Pocock. The best artefact was a Roman umbonate brooch put in by Roger Paul. Some other items picked at random from the tray includes: a medieval set of dividers, plus a Bronze Age awl from Roger Paul.

The chairman also presented the shields to the 2014 winners in the following categories: Find of the Year (Coin) – Peter Tilson, Find of the Year (Artefact) – Colin Loves, Club Person of the Year – Jonathan Cope and Finder of the Year – Peter Cross (this was presented to Peter by Nigel Black).

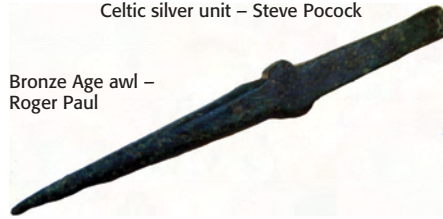


Colin Loves (left) with winning artefact and Peter Tilson (Aethelred II penny)



Celtic silver unit – Steve Pocock

Bronze Age awl – Roger Paul



Medieval compass/dividers – Roger Paul



Roman umbonate brooch – Roger Paul

David Roberts, Chairman

Hinckley Search Society

Our March meeting was a free and easy evening as we did not have a speaker:

Coin of the month:

Mary goat – Richard Ferris



Artefact of the month:

16/17th Century spur – Wayne Rushin



Dagger quillian – Mike Ostrowski



Edward I Irish penny – Bill Bieleit



Roman dolphin fibula – Bill Bieleit



Saxon stirrup mount – Wayne Rushin

David Mann PRO

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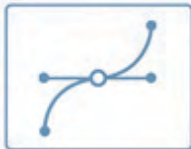
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Kendal & District MDC

At our February meeting the finds table was again full, with some very nice coins and artefacts.

Club rallies were being organised for March and April in the local area by our club members. These rallies support local charities with donations from members

Information, meeting venue etc, for the club, can be had from the secretary, e-mail: ianwatedge@aol.com.



Find of the Month

Coin Pre 1662

1st Elizabeth I sixpence – Tony Philips

2nd Elizabeth I three farthings – George Robinson

Coin Post 1662

1st James II 'gun money' halfcrown – Tony Philips

2nd George III shilling – Darren Lindsay

Artefact Pre 1600

1st Lead spindle whorl – Martin Head

2nd 16th century dagger pommel – George Robinson

Artefact Post 1600

1st Two pocket watch fobs (same hole) – Rod Hall

2nd Victorian bronze boot ornament – Mark Radcliffe

Overall find of the month

James II halfcrown gun money – Tony Philips
Ian Watedge

Down to Earth

Hopefully spring has sprung by the time you read this and all the white 'oriole stuff' has long gone. One club member did wear a coat once, very unusual for a North Easterner!

Coin winner this month saw our Brian take the honours with a rarely seen George IV crown, Keith Stamp following in with a Henry VIII sovereign penny.

Geoff Le Neveu winning the artefacts with a purse bar hanger.



Paul Linford

Northumbrian Search Society

We are based in Durham City and are now open for membership, including any prospective new members.

Please come along to our friendly club if you are interested in the hobby. Meetings are held in the Gilesgate Moor Hotel, Teesdale Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, Gilesgate, Durham City, DH1 2RN and are held every Wednesday night at 8pm.

Several of our existing members arrange searches for our club most Sundays throughout the year. The membership fee is £20.00 but you have to supply your own NCMD card before you can join.

Payment can be made in person or cheques to be made payable to Mr. B. Snowball and sent to: Cragdale Villa, Dalton le Dale, Co. Durham. SR7 8QR.

We look forward to seeing new members.

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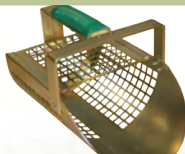
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Brighton & District MDC

Our February meeting was well attended with many interesting finds on the table. The Sussex FLO Stephanie Smith was in attendance taking in members many finds for PAS recording.

The Find of the Month competition results:

Club Coin

Edward III half groat – Martin Graves



Club Artefact

17th C copper 1/4d token – Mick Farrow



Non-Club Coin

Saxon penny of Baldred of Kent – Andy Stanley



Non-Club Artefact

Post Medieval lead weight – Derek Page
Andy Stanley

Essex Detector Society

Here are the winners of the Find of the Month Competition for February:

Coin

1st Saxon sceatta – Mike Steele



2nd Licinius billon – Nick Argent



3rd Edward I halfpenny – Liam Argent

Artefact

1st Bronze Age terret style pendant – Tony Robson



2nd Roman brooch 1st C. – Nick Argent



3rd H Neal one shilling Spitalfield Market token – Steve Connell
Tony Robson

Lune Valley MDC

The meeting room was quite full at our March meeting when we were entertained by Sonnie and Linda Rae who gave us a talk on the Viking businessman. A very interesting meeting with a fair share of amusement mixed in with the facts.

Eddie Bethwaite almost cleared the board by winning three of the four categories in the find of the month competition. They were:

Coin pre 1662

Henry III short cross penny



Coin post 1662

Victoria half sovereign dated 1860



Artefact pre 1500

Saxon brooch



Post 1500 artefact

Won by Angela Broomby

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Brian Randall, Chairman

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Invicta Seekers

We had a good meeting last night with Gordon Bailey; who gave a very interesting talk on clay pipes and tampers, clothes fasteners and civilian buttons. We also received our certificate from Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance showing our donation total to them for £1,025 for 2014.



Finds of the Month for February: Top 3 Coins were:



1st Henry VIII
half groat –
Ian Lee

2nd John penny –
Mick Longman



3rd Two reals
Joanna & Charles
of Spain –
Tony Mills

Top 3 Artefacts are:

1st Medieval ring brooch – Mick Longman



2nd British Army
Music Corp
badge –
Mark Rippingale



3rd Saxon
hair pin –
Ian Lee

Greg Sweetman

Norwich Detectors

The club's February meeting was well attended. It was annual election time for the club committee, and all but two committee members agreed to stand for re-election.

The monthly awards were as follows:

Find of the Month

Saxon brooch re-used as a pendant –
Mark Dover



Artefact of the Month

Late Saxon backward-facing beast brooch –
Jerry Wentford



Coin of the Month

Ancient to 1066

Merovingian tremisiss – Dave Fox



1066 to 1509

Edward I farthing – Class 1 – Dave Fox



1509 to Modern

Robert White of Ludham 17th C. token –
Steve Carpenter



Tony Gregory Award

Late 18th C. dividers – David Soanes

Committee Award

18th Century buckle – Chris Chesters

Worst Find Award

Pair of roller skate wheels – Keith Holden

Graeme Simmonds, Club Chairperson

ISCA MDC

We have had an eventful couple of months. We welcomed several new members to the team and some were lucky enough to find their first 'hammys' on their first club dig.

And Jason Haigh
after only owning
his own detector for
three weeks found a
Charles I penny



Gary Vinnicombe
found a bent Edward?



Stephen Lovering
found a quarter
gold guinea 1762



Richard Turner found a lovely ring although crushed
is still a nice find and currently with the Taunton FLO

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Pembrokeshire Prospectors Society

During the meeting, the Chairman, Trevor Davies, presented Beryl Steadman who runs the 'Hogspital', with a cheque for £481.35 to help with her work in caring for hedgehogs.



The Club supports different local charities, this year we are raising money for Pembrokeshire Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Winners of the Find of the Month

Competition were:

Coins Pre 1689

Edward I silver penny – Phil Jenkins

Coins 1689 onwards

William III sixpence 1696 – Mark Goffin

Ancient Artefacts

Silver shoe buckle – Kevin Higgs

Modern Finds

Silver brooch – Phil Jenkins

Finds Outside Pems

Bronze ring – Kevin Higgs.

The Club meets the first Thursday evening of every month at the Cricket Club, Dale Road Haverfordwest. Members are happy to search for lost metallic items when possible.

Lesley Williamson, Secretary



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Prince Bishop MDC

The Club was formed in 2010, is fully insured and is supported by the local FLO, who records all our finds every two months. We have permissions in North Yorkshire, Darlington area, Durham and as far south as Skegnes. We are a small club with an upper limit of 20 members, with digs organised weekly, every Sunday.

The current chairman of the club is Arthur Kindred and the Secretary is Paul Harrison. Our finds over the last few months have included Roman coins and artefacts, hammered coins and Celtic artefacts.



Pierre Dunglely

Quakers Acres MDC

The find of the month competition is hotting up and this month, Lance made a clean sweep in the artefact section but as we approach find of the year, all manner of artefacts seem to have made an appearance on the finds table but as they say “you have to be in it to win it”.

February winners are:

Coin section

1st Charles I half crown – John Crammond



2nd John penny – Jackson McMillan



3rd Roman bronze – Neil Stokoe

Artefact section

1st Dragon head terminal – Lance Todd



2nd Saxon cruciform brooch fragment – Lance Todd



3rd Personal seal – Lance Todd



Graeme Thompson

Trowbridge & District MDC

We had a very well attended meeting for February, with seven guests also present.

The find of the month winners were Steve Murtie with a beautiful seal, and Gary Cook with a white gold stater. Other finds included a possible Bronze Age cloak pin: an Elizabeth I shilling and a rare Irish penny of King John dated 1208 to 1210.



David Rees, Chairman

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Weymouth & Portland MDC

Our February meeting was very well attended. There was no guest speaker this month but plenty of finds to show from two recent club digs in Dorset and Wiltshire. Clive finding his fourth gold ring in a couple of months and a gold hammered to go with it!

The results were as follows:

Coin of the Month

1st Henry IV quarter noble – Carl Walmsley



2nd Edward III quarter noble – Clive Smith



3rd John Balliol halfpenny – Carl Walmsley



Artefact of the Month

1st Gold posy ring – Clive Smith



2nd 16th C Gold button – Mike Apps



3rd 14C seal matrix – Terry Summerfeld



Mike Apps, Hon Sec

WRDG

The AGM took place on 9 February.

The find of the month Winners were:

Best Artefact:

Flint axe head – Paul Forkins.
Eyes Only Section.



Best coin:

Venetian solidino – Ian Briggs
Medieval Section.



Other winners were:

Modern Artefact:

Victoria florin 1901 – Barry Hilton



Medieval Artefact:

Tudor fastener – Kevern George



Celtic/Roman Artefact:

Celtic toggle – Grenville Shuttleworth



Grenville Shuttleworth

Yeovil MDC

Competition winners:

Pre 1694 Coin section

Roman siliqua – John Coulson



Post 1694 Coin Section

George I farthing – Stuart Palfreeman

Artefact Pre 1694

Roman belt buckle plate – Rob March



Artefact Post 1694

Silver thimble – Krista Reynen



Eyes Only

Piece of glass – Rob March



Token

Monthly Collection

Won by – Rob March
James Perry



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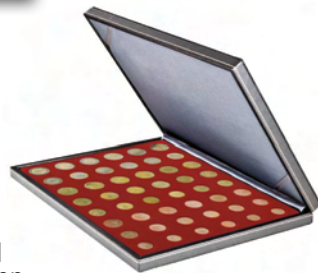
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Two Dales MDC

The March meeting was our AGM and also the awards ceremony for the winners of the annual competitions for 2014-15.

The winners were:

Detectorist of the year (based on points accumulated)

- 1st Dave Whelan
- 2nd Bill Swainston
- 3rd Jean Swainston

Coin of the year

- 1st Danny Morrell – Eadberht sceat



- 2nd Dave Whelan – Eadberht (737-758) sceat
- 3rd Patrick Devaney – Trajan As

Artefact of the year



- 1st Greg Dobson – Roman knee brooch
- 2nd Greg Dobson – Posy ring
- 3rd Bill Swainston – Roman head stud brooch

Find under 300 years of the year

- 1st Steve Cocker – George III spade guinea
- 2nd Steve Cocker – George II half guinea
- 3rd Paul Bullough – Crotal bell

The Committee award for the club member that has best represented the club over the year went to David Harrison.

The finds of the month were:

Coin of the month

- A Constantine nummus – Jean Swainston



Artefact of the month

- Saxon annular brooch – Bill Swainston



Find under 300 years

- George III half crown – Paul Bullough

Eyes only find

- Saxon glass bead – Bill Swainston



Andy

Colchester MDC

Here are finds from our March meeting which was very well attended and a very good selection of finds on the finds table including a very nice King John gold coin. This was the first meeting with the new committee who took from the old committee who served for over 15 years. We would like to thank them for all their hard work over all those years.



Pam and Ken Jackson

Tempus MDC

We were able to hold our first club dig this month, the exciting site in Staffordshire had previously been visited, photographed, field walked and researched thoroughly in preparation, and did not let down, offering new member Jim Barnes his first axe head. The socketed, loop type, late Bronze Age find was also the days best find, beating Dave Sadler's silver 1845 threepence into obscurity.



Gareth Cadman – early Bronze Age axe



Jim Barnes – socketed, loop type late Bronze axe

We were only founded in July 2014, but Jim's axe made fourth in the group in this short time. Adding to a previous one in *The Searcher* by Graham Withers and two more found at different Staffordshire sites by member Gareth Cadman.

Tempus meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm at the Church House Inn, Congleton, Cheshire. The next being Wednesday 1 April. More information can be found at www.tempusmetaldetecting.co.uk

OBITUARY

Brian Starforth

It is my very sad task to inform readers of the loss of a longstanding member of the Northumbrian Search Society, Brian Starforth.

Brian was a much loved and respected member who skilfully found many very interesting coins and artefacts over the years. His interest and enthusiasm for our hobby, rapidly at times, seemed to have become a driven passion. He was always encouraging, welcoming to new members, thoughtful and good humoured.

Several members were present at his packed funeral, and the shock of his passing has been deeply felt by us all. We send our thoughts and condolences to his wife and family at this dreadfully sad time.

Gail M. Bartley.

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Saleroom Scene



Lot 1433

Lot 1522

Classical Numismatic Group's Triton XVIII auction was held on 6 and 7 January of this year. Included in this sale was a collection of Carolingian deniers, together with other coins that are similar in some way to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking pennies struck in England. The European coins on this page could be mistaken for English issues, so the illustrations could be useful for comparison purposes if a detectorist finds something that doesn't match anything in the *Standard Catalogue*. Whilst some of the coins are fairly common and are therefore not of great value, others are very rare and can fetch high prices. The prices quoted have been converted from US dollars and are before the addition of the 17.5 to 20% buyers' premium and any tax that may have been payable.

Lot 1372, Carolingians, Charlemagne obol, struck 771-793/4, 'Ardis' (uncertain Provençal) mint, good VF, rare, **£2,167**.



Lot 1372

Lot 1383, Carolingians, Charlemagne denier, struck 793/4-812, Mediolanum (Milan) mint, good VF, find patina, **£1,667**.



Lot 1383

Lot 1402, Carolingians, Louis the Pious denier, struck 822-840, unspecified (Milan?) mint, temple on reverse, good VF, **£167**.



Lot 1402

Lot 1420, Carolingians, Charles the Bold obol, struck 864-877, Metallum (Melle) mint, good VF, well struck, **£127**.



Lot 1420

Lot 1422, Carolingians, Charles the Bold denier, struck 864-877 and later, Dionysii (St. Denis) mint, EF, toned, **£367**.



Lot 1422

Lot 1433, Carolingians, Odo denier, struck 887-898, Turones (Tours) mint, monogram on obverse, good VF, toned, **£367**.

Lot 1442, Carolingians, Louis the Infant obol, struck 899-911, Tullo (Toul) mint, TVLLO across field on reverse, VF, toned, rare, **£367**.



Lot 1442

Lot 1479, Austria, Salzburg, Heinrich IV von Bayern denier, struck 1009-1024, head on obverse, cross with an annulet, wedge and pellets in angles on reverse, nearly EF, toned, edge slightly irregular, **£633**.



Lot 1479

Lot 1482, Bohemia, Oldrich denier, 1012-1033 and 1034, Praha (Prague) mint, cross with 'hand symbol', three pellets and two annulets in angles on reverse, EF, iridescent rainbow toning, rare, **£867**.



Lot 1482

Lot 1494, Denmark, Hardeknut (Harthacnut) penny, struck 1035-1042, Arhus mint, legends mostly blundered, OXX within inner circle on reverse, EF, toned, very rare, **£1,500**.



Lot 1494

Lot 1521, France, Provençal, Pons (Count of Toulouse) denier, struck 1037-1060, Aianrigo (Toulouse) mint, cross with pellets and a crescent in angles on obverse, REX within inner circle on reverse, good VF, toned, rare, **£733**.



Lot 1521

Lot 1522, France, Provençal, Raymond IV denier, Toulouse mint, head within inner circle on each side, superb EF, apparently unpublished with the obverse head facing left, **£4,000**.

Lot 1587, Italy, Papal State, Leo IV denaro, struck 847-855, monogram within inner circle on both sides, EF, toned, **£1,833**.



Lot 1587

Lot 1593, Italy, Pavia, Enrico II (Emperor) denaro, struck 1014-1024, Pavia (Pavia) mint, PAVIA across field on reverse, good VF, toned, **£200**.



Lot 1593

Lot 1674, Sweden, Olof Skotkonung penny, struck 995-1022, Sigtuna mint, moneyer Leofman, copying the CRVX type of Aethelred II of England, good VF, toned, large flan, very rare, **£3,837**.



Lot 1674

Lot 1678, Switzerland, Republic of the Canton of Geneva, Conrad denier, struck 1020-1025/30, Geneva mint, temple on reverse, similar to some Carolingian deniers, nearly EF, iridescent toning, **£250**.



Lot 1678

Lot 1679, Switzerland, Republic of the Canton of Geneva, Guy de Faucigny or Humbert de Grammont as Bishop, 1078-1119 or 1119/20-1135, head of St. Peter on reverse, EF, toned, **£217**.



Lot 1679

Lot 1707, Anglo-Viking (Danish Northumbria), imitation of a penny of Plegmund, circa 885-915, moneyer Beornweald, S. 974, EF, toned, very rare, **£2,333**.



Lot 1707

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